FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 FEBRUARY 1984

23 February Middle East & South Asia Review

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces reached the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and gained "full control" of a "major part" of the Baghdad-Basra highway south of Al-'Amarah, thereby disrupting an important link between the Iraqi III Corps in the south and the IV Corps in the north, Tehran radio and IRNA announced on 23 February. In the "special Khybar operations" launched along several axes in the Basra and Al-'Amarah Provinces in southern Iraq, Iranian troops crossed the marshy region east of the strategic Baghdad-Basra highway and "liberated" a number of villages in Basra Province, the radio reported. One Iraqi plane was shot down by Iranian air defense units while "very heavy" fighting continues along the more than 90-km front, Tehran radio added. According to IRNA, Iranian forces have now penetrated 40 km inside Iraqi territory and maintain "full control" over the areas captured along the way.

The Iraqi Armed Forces General Command, in a communique carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio on 23 February, announced Iraq's defeat of the Iranian attack in territory east of Basra. The "aggressors' bodies have been dismembered" and their troop concentrations "transformed into bodies littering the pure soil of Basra," the communique said. An earlier Iraqi communique, broadcast by Baghdad radio, congratulated the III Army Corps for confronting this attack and "destroying the ignominious forces of aggression." A military spokesman, in remarks cited by Voice of the Masses, likewise announced that attacking Iranian forces were "wiped off the face of the earth." An Iraqi military commander also "ridiculed" Iran's claim that its forces had reached the Tigris and Euphrates and had taken control of the Basra-Baghdad highway. Such "hallucinations" are the result of the "stupifying blow" Iran sustained during its "abortive" offensive against Iraq, the commander charged.

Earlier, in a 22 February military communique broadcast by Tehran radio, Iran announced that the Val-Fajr VI operations had succeeded in "liberating" more than 100 square km and capturing the Tib-Badrah supply route in Iraq, killing a "large group" of Iraqi forces and destroying Iraq's 77th Brigade in the process. Losses inflicted on the IV Corps are "very extensive" and "hundreds" of dead Iraqi soldiers "litter a large area" in the Chilat region, according to IRNA. However, the commander of the Iraqi IV Army Corps, in a statement to INA, said that his forces are continuing to inflict "heavy losses" on Iranian troops in the Chilat sector.

Lebanon

Military Situation — Israeli planes raided "terrorist" targets in the Bhamdun area on 23 February, strafing buildings and artillery positions, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement carried by ITIM. He said all Israeli planes returned safely to base. A related report by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted that the Israeli planes ejected heat balloons to deflect SAM's. Radio Free Lebanon and Voice of Lebanon radio had earlier reported that Israeli aircraft bombed Palestinian positions in the Al-Biqa' valley the previous day, but monitored Israeli media did not mention any raid on 22 February.

Further south, the IDF intervened to halt Druze shelling of Christian villages near the Al-Awwali River, Jerusalem radio reported. Fatah dissident military leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha told a press conference in Shtawrah that his movement has "neither the ambition nor the intention to return with weapons to Beirut," according to AFP.

Saudi Mediation — Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri briefed President Amin al-Jumayyil on the latest proposals from Damascus on 22 February, Beirut radio reported. Earlier, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held talks with Al-Hariri and Saudi Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, according to Damascus radio. Radio Monte Carlo spoke of "optimism" about the results of the Syrian-Saudi talks, asserting that President Hafiz al-Asad and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah defined "certain positions and frameworks" and citing Prince Bandar's remark that the mediation efforts are taking a "positive course." Prince Bandar also affirmed that Syria and Saudi Arabia have prepared "new proposals" to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon, AFP reported.

Syrian Comment — Pointing to the "contradictions" in U.S. policy on Lebanon, Damascus radio said that while President Reagan earlier issued "threats and warnings" to Syria, the U.S. Administration is now sending Syria messages "without threats and warnings" which urge the latter to help the United States leave Lebanon "without losing face." Such a message was delivered by the delegation led by Senator John Tower, which met with Al-Asad on 21 February, according to the radio.

Phalangist Position, Mobilization — Abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement will move Lebanon "in the direction of Syria, and this is what we reject," Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram stated in remarks broadcast by Radio Free Lebanon. In view of the Army's defeat and the current military situation, Afram said, the Phalangists may be obliged to strengthen their forces by drafting reservists and staging a military, social, and cultural "mobilization."

Jordan-Libya Relations

The Jordanian cabinet decided to sever diplomatic and political relations with Libya as of 22 February in response to the burning of the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli, Amman television reported. In a statement on the incident, reported by Amman radio, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat said representatives of Palestinian resistance factions in Libya dissociated themselves from the storming of the embassy, which was carried out by some 250 persons whom the Libyan authorities transported in buses for the occasion.

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Palestinian Officials Resume Meetings in Tunis

JN221728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Palestinian functionaries are pursuing their meetings in Tunis under brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. They are discussing the latest developments in the region, the results of Abu 'Ammar's tours, and his recent visit to Moscow. They are also discussing several internal topics related to the legitimate Palestinian frameworks and their functioning on various levels.

PLO's Qaddumi Says Damascus Talks Successful

PM230931 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 20 Feb 84 p 1

[Samir Sa'd ad-Din report: "Qaddumi Tells *AR-RIYAD*: My Talks in Damascus Were Successful and Will be Resumed on A Wider Scale"]

[Excerpt] Athens — PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi — Abu al-Lutf — has told *AR-RIYAD* that he has had successful preliminary talks with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus and that these talks will be resumed on a wider scale in the next few days, God willing.

On his contacts with Palestinian opposition organizations in Damascus, Qaddumi said: "I am holding contacts with Palestinian organizations and personalities with the aim of convening the next PNC session and arriving at common ground between us in Fatah and the other organizations before that session is held. There are still some obstacles on the way. One obstacle is that the PFLP makes its attendance of the PNC session conditional on Yasir 'Arafat's nonattendance, which is illogical and unacceptable to us. The DFLP, on the other hand, has been flexible and understanding."

Futher Remarks

GF221016 Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb (QNA) — Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, described the results of his visit to Damascus as fruitful. He said that the dialogue he held with the Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam focused on Palestinian-Syrian relations. In a statement to Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'* published today, he said that his visit to Syria was an opportunity to break the ice and to turn over a new leaf in Syrian-Palestinian relations. He stated that such contacts will continue in order to improve relations between the PLO and Syria.

PLO Dissident Muraghal on Lebanon, Qaddumi

NC221954 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Shtawrah, Central Lebanon, Feb 22 (AFP) — Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], leader of the Palestinian dissidents opposed to PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat, said here today his movement had "neither the ambition nor the intention to return with weapons to Beirut."

Col Musa told a press conference that his movement had adopted "a political strategy completely contrary to that previously followed" by Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon.

"We want Beirut to become a patriotic and progressive bastion," he said, "and for the conflict between the progressive Lebanese Forces and the reactionary forces to run its course and remain an inter-Lebaense conflict."

His movement's view, he continued, was that "our armed presence must be strengthened in the face of the Israeli enemy."

However, he added, "We are at the disposal of those forces, at the slightest sign, to give them our political and military aid."

He denied press reports that Faruq Qaddumi, president of the Palestinian National Council, had undertaken to try to reconcile Mr 'Arafat with the Syrian leadership.

Mr Qaddumi, he said, is one of the "revisionists" on the PLO Central Committee who have put themselves "at the service of the American plan."

PLO's Khalil al-Wazir Interviewed on Mideast Situation

AU221523

[Editorial Report] Zagreb *VJESNIK* in Serbo-Croatian on 12 February on page 7 carries a 2,000-word interview given by Khalil al-Wazir, addressed as Abu Jihad throughout the interview, deputy commander of the Palestinian Armed Forces, to Hido Biscevic, *VJESNIK* permanent correspondent in Amman, in Abu Jihad's "headquarters" in Amman, date not given. With the exception of the first question, which is summarized, the interview is given in the question and answer form.

Biscevic first asks Abu Jihad to assess the developments in Lebanon. In reply, Abu Jihad blames the Israeli "interference" in Lebanon's internal affairs and Israeli "efforts to create a division" in Lebanon for the "present dangerous and exceptionally complex situation" in Lebanon. Speaking about recent events, Abu Jihad says: "The Multinational Forces and U.S. Marines came next. We have only watched how the Americans have been sinking deeper and deeper into the mud of the Lebanese war. It must have become clear to all that the PLO and the Palestinians are not the reason for Lebanese divisions. It was only after our departure that things exploded. Many people know that it was precisely the Palestinians who earlier prevented such an explosion and tried to keep the quarreling parties together, while preventing further complications."

Biscevic then raises the problem of growing anti-Americanism, and Abu Jihad says: "It should be known that the Americans are hated in this region. People do not accept them. The arrival of the U.S. fleet was a very serious thing. The Arab world is already so terribly divided and tired of all quarrels that it feels a terrific pressure and spiritual anxiety, and thus this tide of rage was inevitable. The explosions in the U.S. Marine headquarters are a clear signal of the mood in this region. Each attempt at a neocolonial act inevitably provokes an outburst of rage."

Asked by Biscevic whether this mood will make the position of so-called moderate forces in this region even more difficult, Abu Jihad says that the Palestinians do not expect a political solution because "we know very well that the United States is obstructing a political solution," particularly in the year of the U.S. elections.

When Biscevic asks whether the Soviet Union could take advantage of this American vacuum, particularly now when Washington is suffering blows in Lebanon, Abu Jihad says: "We believe that the Soviet Union supports our rights to self-determination and to our state, and that it supports the Arab countries. For this reason we believe that the Soviets will look for a way to help us in this respect. When they try to strengthen their influence, this is their way of facing the American challenge...."

As for Palestinian expectations from the West European side, Abu Jihad says that in 1978 in Venice, West Europe made its initiative and later took other steps in this direction but that, following U.S. pressure on these countries, some of the West European countries have begun to withdraw. "We particularly appreciate the French progressive stand, particularly after the assistance extended in Tripoli. For this reason we believe in a more active position of West Europe."

Abu Jihad then speaks about the need to strengthen the links between the Palestinians and Jordan, to create the basis for long-term relations in the future, and to seek common elements for Jordanian-Palestinian action in the near future. The Palestinians will have to work to win support for their right to self-determination and the same also goes for winning the support of the Arab countries.

Abu Jihad then speaks about the Israeli "pressure" in the occupied territories and the Palestinian aim of strengthening the Palestinian society in the occupied territories to resist this pressure.

Asked by Biscevic as to what the situation is now like in the "Palestinian house," Abu Jihad says that "following the failed attempt of Syria and Libya to create a new leadership and organs in place of the PLO under the mask of internal dissatisfaction and dissidents, it was decided that all those who were used as tools in this plot should be expelled from our 'Palestinian house.'" It is up to us to renew this house, to convene the National Council.... We believe that this will happen in the next 2 months."

Baghdad PLO Radio Reports Attacks in Gaza

JN221719 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The groups of our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are continuing to escalate their daring and heroic operations against the Zionist occupation forces. Yesterday, one of our groups attacked a Zionist military vehicle in the occupied city of Gaza. The group used hand grenades in the attack. Another hand grenade was hurled at an Israeli patrol when it was passing through the Jabaliya refugee camp north of Gaza. As usual, a Zionist source claimed that no casualties were reported among Israeli soldiers, and said that the Israeli forces besieged the streets that are close to the two attacks and waged an extensive arrest and search campaign. Several Palestinian citizens were arrested under the pretext of interrogating them.

Venezuelan Minister Doubts Preferential Quotas

AB180710 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The Venezuela energy and mines minister, Mr Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, thinks there are no prospects in OPEC for preferential treatment. Mr Grisanti's remarks too indicate that the Nigerian hopes for an improved OPEC production quota may be dashed by opposition from other members of the organization. The Venezuela minister also told the OPEC NEWS AGENCY that he had no official information that Nigeria had asked for a higher quota.

The Nigerian head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, had (?publicly) called for a 500,000- to 700,000-barrel increase in Nigeria's current quota of 1.3 million barrels per day. In its quest for a higher production quota, Nigeria has gained the support of the Saudi Arabian petroleum minister, Shaykh Ahmad Zaqi Yamani, who said OPEC should consider preferential treatments for members with special problems.

Mr Grisanti said OPEC could not discuss production quotas until its next full conference in June. The OPEC Market Monitoring Committee is scheduled to meet in Vienna, Austria, on March 9.

GULF AFFAIRS

UN Environmental Official on Gulf Pollution

GF221727 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 22 Feb (WAKH) — Executive Director of the UN Environment Programm Dr Mustafa Kamal Tulba said that the Iranian Mowruz oil wells are still leaking oil into Gulf waters.

In the Bahraini weekly gazette *AL-BAHRAYN*, Dr Tulba said that the oil spill is not the only source of pollution. Oil from prospecting sites, in addition to the industrial pollution from the aluminium, iron and steel industries also plague the Gulf. He added that pollution was seriously affecting the region's water supply.

"Water is the problem of the 80's, as energy was the problem of the 70's," he added. Water faces a shortage because of pollution or malconsumption, in addition to the countries' failure to meet the needs of factories and farmers. This will result in a war among the world's countries to ensure water resources.

Dr. Kamal commented on the air pollution problem and said that the program has a network with the international meteorological organization to determine the quantity of carbon dioxide and other gasses that affect the weather in the world.

KUWAIT

'AT-TALI'AH Rejects Iranian Motives Against Iraq

LD221227 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 22 (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti weekly magazine Wednesday rejected Iran's declared political aims behind its current offensive against Iraq.

The magazine *'AT-TALI'AH* pointed out that Tehran's targets are "the toppling of the Iraqi regime and establishment of a selected government that was being prepared a long time ago." The stubborn Iranian stand toward Arab and international mediation bids to end the war and start negotiating was due to Tehran's insistance on "changing the Iraqi regime and imposing another one," the magazine went on. During the four years of war, changes occurred in the Iraqi stance, particularly that of withdrawal of troops to the international borders and its readiness to end the armed confrontation and negotiate.

Meanwhile, the Iranian push for the announced political target did not falter but instead apparently gained momentum, the commentary underlined. The magazine said: "This basic factor in Iranian political and military action is not acceptable, and is rejected as a doctrine and system in the light of international relations and peoples' national aspirations, including the Iraqi and Iranian people."

"As we have refused Iraq's war against Iran, despite the fact that its declared goals did not include changing the Iranian regime, we reject Tehran's offensive against Iraq and its declared aims of downing the Iraqi political regime," the commentary stated. "We believe that foreign intervention embodies an abolition of the Iraqi people's will and existence and an attempt to impose a kind of government on that people," the magazine said.

The weekly explained that the nature of government in any country is the sole and exclusive right of the concerned people of that country. The magazine went on to refute Iran's argument for its declared goals, saying that if Tehran wanted to resist the American and Zionist enemies, then the battleground is not Iraqi territory. The battle against imperialism and Zionism should not involve the creation of a new sectarian entity by force that would add to the disintegration of Arab national effort, the magazine said, adding that the real battle is in Lebanon where the Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian national forces are resisting an American-Israeli invasion.

The other Iranian argument of escalating revolutionary impetus in the region is disclaimed by the sectarian calls which are counter revolutionary, since there is no revolutionary status in the creation of sectarian states, the report added. The Iranian buildup has lost all national or revolutionary justification after Iraq repeatedly announced its readiness to cease fighting and end that tragic drain on both the Iraqi and Iranian sides.

"We, as patriotic forces, sense the grave losses inflicted by this war," the report said, adding that serious repercussions could engulf the entire region as a result of the persisting Iranian thinking. The magazine called on Iran to stop that trend and consequent plans, in order to preserve the interests of both the Iranian and Arab peoples alike.

The Arab people's support for the fall of the shah of Iran was given with the hope of concerted backing by the Iranian people, and was not meant to replace the shah with a kind of hegemony over the Arab people's affairs, the magazine said, and concluded that: "This is something that the Iranian leadership should be well aware of."

PDRY

YSP Chairman Meets DFLP Secretary General

GF220658 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] A bilateral work meeting was held in Aden today between Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

During this meeting, Brother Nayif Hawatimah discussed the recent developments in the Middle East and the situation in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas.

On his part, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his deep appreciation for the heroic steadfastness of the Lebanese people and their national movement in the Palestinian revolution, and to fraternal Syria for their efforts to confront the imperialist and

Zionist plots, expel the Zionist invaders from Lebanon, and restore the national rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of their national independent state.

Brothers 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and Nayif Hawatimah reaffirmed the importance of consolidating the unity and cohesion of the Arab national liberation movement, including the revolutionary alliance between the Palestinian revolution and Lebanese national movement, and fraternal Syria.

During this meeting, struggle relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and the YSP and DFLP were also discussed. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the development and growth of these relations and also the importance of working for their continuous development and consolidation.

Visiting Lebanese Communist Official Departs

GF221525 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Brother Fawwaz Trabulsi, assistant secretary general of the Organization of Communist Action in Lebanon [OCAL], left Aden today after a several days' visit to the PDRY.

During this visit, he held talks with a number of party and government officials on the recent developments in the situation in the Lebanese arena and on relations between the YSP and OCAL.

SAUDI ARABIA

Turkey's Evren, Delegation Continue Visit

Talks Begin In Riyadh

TA221049 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The Turkish-Saudi official talks have begun in Riyadh.

The Turkish delegation is headed by President Kenan Evren, and the Saudi delegation by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The further development of bilateral economic and trade relations and cooperation in the fields of defense and education are being discussed in the meetings. Regional problems are also being taken up at the meetings.

Evren, who is on an official visit to Saudi Arabia as the guest of King Fahd, visited the Ministry of Planning prior to the talks. Evren was briefed by Minister of Planning Hisham Muhyi ad-Din Nazir and other officials on the 5-year development plan being implemented in the country. After concluding his contacts in Riyadh, Evren will visit the industrial city on the Persian Gulf coast, Al-Jubayl, as well as Jidda, Mecca, and Medina. He will return to Turkey on 25 February.

Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem, National Defense Minister Zeki Yavuzturk, and Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu are accompanying Evren on his visit to Saudi Arabia.

Further on Riyadh Talks

TA221533 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1509 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Feb — Turkey's President Kenan Evren, on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, and Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz led their respective delegations in formal talks Wednesday, the second day of President Evren's visit to the Kingdom. The talks covered world and regional issues, particularly the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in Lebanon, and the question of Afghanistan, sources said.

The Turkish delegation reiterated Turkey's support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to an independent state. The importance Turkey attaches to unity and solidarity among Islamic states was also stressed.

The Turkish side explained the reasons which obliged the Turkish Cypriot community to declare the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [TRNC], while the Saudi side viewed the declaration of the TRNC with understanding.

Informed sources also believed possible cooperation in the defense industry and other industries was taken up in the talks as well. Agreement was reached to hold the second session of the Joint Economic Committee in Riyadh, which met in Ankara in December 1983, as soon as possible.

President Evren and King Fahd were each accompanied by several ministers at the talks, including the Turkish ministers of defense and foreign affairs, Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem, and the Saudi ministers of defense and aviation, foreign affairs, and finance and economy. The two heads of state are expected to meet for a tete-a-tete Wednesday evening.

Tuesday evening, King Fahd decorated President Evren with the medal of 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Kingdom's highest order. The ceremony was held before the dinner the king gave in honor of President Evren at Nassiriye Palace. The two heads of state exchanged gifts, the king presenting Evren with a gold sabre representing the armor of the Saudi dynasty, while Evren presented the king with a golden pitcher and prayer beads in gold and black amber from the Erzurum region.

Wednesday morning, President Evren attended a briefing at the Saudi Ministry of Planning on the Saudi five-year development plan. The president was told Saudi Arabian imports from Turkey had tripled from 1980 to 1982, while exports had increased fivefold.

Talks Continue; Agreement Signed

TA221703 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Official talks between Turkey and Saudi Arabia have been held in Riyadh. A cooperation agreement has been signed between the two countries on military training and education.

Following the official talks held at noon — which lasted about 2 hours — President Evren and King Fahd held private talks.

During the official talks, King Fahd told President Evren that they received with understanding Turkish positions on the issues of Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war. Evren told the Saudi king that Turkey is attempting to maintain its neutrality on both problems, adding that his country will do whatever is necessary.

Recalling that the prime minister and the foreign minister will soon visit Iran, President Evren said that if it contributes to peace efforts, he would also visit Iran. Noting that the Turkish stand on Palestine is clear, Evren said that in all foreign forums Turkey supported the Palestinians' right to have their own homeland.

In the afternoon, the president attended horse races held at the Mala hippodrome in his honor and awarded prizes to the winners.

According to a report by Turkish radio and television correspondents Guntac Akran, Nejat Ozkan and Muhsin Cifteli from Riyadh, ministers accompanying the president on the official visit also held bilateral contacts. Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa‘ud al-Faysal and said after the meeting that views were exchanged on international and regional issues. Halefoglu said that he briefed the Saudi foreign minister on Turkish policies on the Cyprus problem and discussed the further promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations.

Halefoglu added that in this connection, difficulties encountered by Turkish firms in Saudi Arabia, the visa problem, and possibilities for joint investments were also reviewed. These problems, the foreign minister said, will be discussed in detail by relevant joint committees. Halefoglu concluded by saying that President Evren had invited the Saudi king to Turkey and that the king had accepted the invitation.

An agreement on cooperation in the fields of military training and education was signed.

Tomorrow, President Kenan Evren will visit the Saudi industrial city of Al Jubayl on the Persian Gulf.

More on Cooperation Agreement

LD221843 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Feb (SPA) — The Kingdom and Turkey today signed an agreement for miltiary cooperation in the fields of training and education. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Kingdom by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation; and for Turkey by Turkish Defense Minister Zeki Yavuzturk.

This agreement comes as an expression of the desire of the two governments to establish military cooperation in the field of training and education at military academies, institutes, and schools belonging to the armed forces in the two countries. It also falls within the framework of consolidating the bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between the two Muslim countries in all fields.

Algerian Foreign Minister Stops in Jidda

LD222030 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Jidda, 22 Feb (Spa) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi has stopped over at Jidda this evening, coming from Addis Ababa en route to Tanzania where he will be paying an official visit.

He was welcomed on arrival by the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Salim Sunbul, and the Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom, Tijani Haddam. The Algerian foreign minister will leave Jidda tomorrow morning.

UAE

President Receives Message From Iraq's Husayn

GF221411 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpts] President of the state, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with bilateral relations and bilateral cooperation. The message was relayed by Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi during an audience with the president today at Al-Mushrif Palace.

Qasim Ahmad Taqi left the country today. He was seen off at the airport by Dr Mani' Sa‘id al-‘Utaybah.

Upon his arrival today, the Iraqi oil minister made a statement to WAM in which he expressed hope that at the upcoming OPEC meeting in July, the issue of increasing Iraq's share of its production of crude oil will be discussed and that a resolution to increase this share will be adopted. He pointed out that Iraq's current share — which is 1.2 million barrels a day in accordance with a decision reached at the OPEC meeting in London last March — does not represent what it should be in relation to the huge Iraqi crude oil reserves and its current production capacity. He also noted that the oil production line through the Turkish territories resumed normal operation after earlier technical problems.

Minister Receives Hungarian Trade Delegation

GF191320 Doha QNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Feb (QNA) — Ahmad at-Ta‘ir, minister of state for financial and industrial affairs in the UAE, today met with a Hungarian trade delegation led by Tamas Beck, president of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce currently visiting the UAE.

During the meeting, they discussed the means of consolidating trade and economic relations between the two countries, especially the marketing of the Hungarian products including building materials, spare auto parts and other agricultural and livestock products.

The Hungarian delegation, consisting of eight members, arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday on a 3-day visit to the UAE.

Abu Dhabi Boycott Bureau Revises Blacklist

GF211138 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 21 Feb 84 p 3

[Excerpt] The ban on Mothercare Ltd. and its 18 branches in various countries has been lifted by the Boycott Israel Bureau in Abu Dhabi.

Mr Sayf al-Jarwan, minister of economy and commerce, issued seven ministerial decrees stating the UAE's attitude towards a number of international companies, in accordance with regulations of the Damascus-based Boycott Israel Bureau. The ban on Habitat Mothercare and its 13 branches in Britain, France, the U.S. and Belgium has also been lifted. The French cheese company, Fromageries Bel, and its 28 branches have also been taken off the blacklist.

The ban has also been lifted from the Spanish company Tubacex Taylor Accesouos SA; the Indian company Ratan Re-Rollers Ltd; the American Del Monte Corporation and its 70 subsidiaries in the U.S., Britain, Belgium, Panama, Canada, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Italy, Venezuela, Brazil, France and Mexico; and the American R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc.

Another decree said the ban would remain valid on the Turkish company Metalock Unilock Sanayi Ticaret; K.S. Metalock Britain Ltd and its 44 subsidiaries; Revlon; Avon Industries; Bayer A.G.; Agfa Gevaert National Plastic Group; Courtanlds Ltd and its 16 branches; Estech Inc, Dorice Corporation; Esmark Inc.; and International Playtex, Inc and its 35 subsidiaries.

Three Canadian banks have been blacklisted for violating the bureau's regulations. They are Israel Discount Bank of Canada, Bank Hapoalini and Bank Leumi le Israel.

The Canadian B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, the Canada-Israel Committee and various organizations affiliated to it have also been blacklisted. The decree lists the organizations as: the Labour Zionist Movement; the Canadian Sephardi Federation; the Zionist Organization of Canada; the Friends of Pioneering Israel; Hadassah WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization); the Canadian Zionist Youth Organization; the Jewish Congress of Canada and the Jewish Communities.

Eight ships have been blacklisted for dealing with Israel or hoisting the Israeli flag. They are: Leadbon of Panama; Ming Xihai of China; Valani Spirit of Panama; Tugro of Holland; Samar Sea of Panama; Charmyl of Cyprus; and Zim Miami and Zim New Orleans of Israel.

Three Pakistani Navy Ships Arrive in Dubayy

GF231004 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Dubayy, 23 Feb (WAKH) — Three Pakistani Navy ships arrived in Dubayy on a friendly 3-day visit.

The ships were received on arrival by Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Khalifah Saqr, director of military education at the UAE Defense Ministry; Abdolwahab Khan, the Pakistani consul general in Dubayy; and a number of senior officals.

Activities for the three ships — the *Babar*, the *Hermet*, and the *Tusral* — include sports competition between their crews and UAE Armed Forces personnel.

New Ra's al-Khaymah Radio Station To Open 25 Feb

GF191528 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Ra's al-Khaymah, 19 Feb (WAKH) — The new radio station of Ra's al-Khaymah will be opened in Zabbut area next Saturday. Its capacity is 50 kilowatts.

The station will transmit its original programs in Arabic, in addition to two programs in English and Urdu. This was stated by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Humayd al-Qasimi, director of the information and tourism directorate in Ra's al-Khaymah. He said that the new radio station will operate with new equipment and at a greater capacity.

He added that the station will play an informational, cultural, and entertainment role as a voice of civilization in service of the state's objectives, the consolidation of the values of virtue, charity, and peace, and in the defense of the issues of the Arab nation, its culture, glories and heritage.

YAR

APU Chairman Burawi Arrives for Talks

GF230606 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd ar-Rahman Burawi, chairman of the council of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], arrived in San'a' last night on a visit to our country that will last for several days.

During this visit, he will hold talks with concerned officials in the Constituent People's Council — including Judge 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, the vice president and speaker of the Constituent People's Council, and a member of the Standing Committee of the APU — in his capacity as chairman of the the APU's 14th council.

In a statement to SABA', Burawi said he will brief the brother chairman of the council on the program of implementing the resolutions the council adopted in its 14th session and discuss with him inter-Arab parliamentary issues, including future activities, the Afro-Arab dialogue which will be held in Tunis next month, and the meetings of the World Parliamentary Union.

Salih Comments on Joint Council Session

GF220520 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Interview with President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, carried in 20 February issue of PDRY daily *14 OCTOBER*]

[Excerpts] [Question] The convening of the second session of the Yemeni council is considered an important and historic event in the course of the unity efforts of the two sides. Your Excellency, how do you assess the unity achievements in recent years and their affect on the future of the unity work and the lives of our Yemeni people? And how do you assess the importance of convening this session in light of the current Yemeni, Arab, and international situations?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the path to achieving unity requires much effort, diligent and continuous work by our people in the two parts of the homeland, because the effects of the division are heavy and are not easy to overcome by emotions and wishes alone. Due to our awareness of our responsibility in realizing the targets of the legitimate national ambitions, we in both parts of the homeland were able to begin with steps which will take Yemeni unity into the stage of consolidating its financial bases by setting up joint ventures — which are the first step — and will create the atmosphere which prepares each Yemeni citizen in both parts of the homeland to live in Yemeni surroundings without any imaginary barriers. That was the result of the meetings of the first session of the Yemeni council, which were held 6 months ago and resulted in the agreement on the right of the citizens to travel between the two parts, while the joint unity committees are continuing their work.

The achievement realized by the joint constitutional committee through the joint constitutional plan, which clarified the procedure of the continuous steps on the path of realizing Yemeni unity, is important because the meetings of the second session of the Yemeni council were held within positive national developments, which helps us to move forward in realizing further unity steps.

Along with that, we always remember how difficult the way to construction is. However, it is the indispensible way to translate the ambitions of our people into reality. And that, as I explained, needs further coordination, cooperation, and diligent work in order to enable us to correct the course of history and maintain the united Arab and Islamic character of the Yemeni homeland, which the imams and imperialism tried to end by tearing it apart and subjecting it to division. Knowledge of all aspects greatly helps in moving in the direction which will lead to setting up the needed bases for constructing a united country. Perhaps the current Arab situation contains lessons for us — from the various regrettable events that Lebanon and the Palestinian people are witnessing — which will aid us in restoring unity and overcoming the difficulties facing us.

[Question] During the siege of Beirut, you and your brother, Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, made contact. Currently, the Zionist occupation still continues and the United States is directly interfering in Lebanon. There are dangerous threats against our Arab people, particularly against Syria. Will you adopt a united Yemeni stance once again on the Arab level or will the Yemeni voice [words indistinct]? What are the ways to confront the dangers and developments that the Arab arena is witnessing?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the conditions which led us to launching a joint Yemeni initiative in mid-1982 differ from the current ones. At that time, Israel had begun to strengthen its domination by beseiging West Beirut where the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance was positioned. Such a siege posed a direct danger requiring every effort to support the steadfastness of the Palestinians and the Lebanese in the face of the Israeli siege, and our initiative paved the way for joint Arab work to rescue the Palestinian revolution. The current Arab situation was the center of attention, and we held discussions with Brother Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad during the meetings of the second session of the Yemeni council. We will not hesitate to launch joint efforts to resist the dangers which the Arab arena is currently witnessing.

[Question] The northern part of the homeland was the first Arab country to sign a friendship agreement with the Soviet Union. How do you assess your relations with the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Our relations with the Soviet Union are developing positively. And this should be the case, since the relations date back by over half a century. Our relations were established on clear bases, and due to the clearness of these bases our relations were able to develop and grow continuously.

President Mubarak Sends Message to Reagan

JN230900 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today sent a written message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* today says that the message expresses the strong ties between both countries, the development of bilateral relations, and President Mubarak's satisfaction with his talks with President Reagan during his recent visit to Washington.

Economy Minister Views Current Trade Relations

JN221845 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, has confirmed the soundness of Egypt's economy — a fact that has gained the confidence of all economic international organizations.

In a special statement to MENA, Dr as-Sa'id said that Egypt meets its various obligations without any delay. This has encouraged many international trade institutions to express a readiness to grant Egypt many loans. He spoke about Egypt's economic relations with the United States and affirmed that during the past 2 years these relations witnessed tangible development and improvement in several fields. He explained that U.S. military aid began in the form of loans, and later developed into loans and grants. He said that beginning next year, all military aid will be turned into nonrepayable grants.

Concerning U.S. economic aid to Egypt, Dr as-Sa'id said that this aid is divided into two parts: First, a $250 million aid package in the form of agricultural and food commodities. This type of aid package is in easy loans that are settled within a period of 30 or 40 years, and at one percent interest per annum. They could also be settled in the Egyptian pound. Second, there is a $750 million aid package in the form of projects. This part is considered entirely a grant. The minister expressed the desire that this aid in kind would be transformed into financial aid; that is, to be paid in cash, totally or partially. He noted that the U.S. side expressed a good understanding in this regard and promised to raise this subject in the U.S. Congress at the end of this year.

Dr as-Sa'id added that the Egyptian Government asked U.S. officials to transfer the sums of money that had been allocated for certain projects, and were not needed, into cash, and to deliver the money to the Egyptian Government in order for the government to spend these funds to purchase equipment and commodities. He reiterated that these projects were examined, and that $101 million in projects were found to have been completed. Thus, it was agreed to re-appropriate these funds and pay them in cash to the Egyptian Governemnt.

Concerning Egypt's relationship with the USSR, Dr as-Sa'id said that Egyptian trade relations with the USSR are governed by a trade and payment agreement which is renewed annually. Egypt is currently settling its debts to the USSR regularly. It is paying 20 to 50 million Egyptian pounds every year from the total amount and interest on these loans. He expected an increase in Egyptian-USSR trade relations during the coming phase. He explained that trade between the two countries is developing each year within a normal rate of growth.

Dr as-Sa'id touched on the internal situation and the difficulties that are facing the Egyptian economy, and said: Concerning subsidies, Egypt has no thought of cancelling subsidies in order not to affect the standard of living. The main objective to which the Egyptian Government adheres is the need to keep a certain standard of living for individuals.

Dr as-Sa'id explained that Egypt depends on two main sources to obtain more foreign currencies in order to meet the requirements of development. These sources are: Egyptian transfers from abroad and Egypt's exports. He said that the revenue of transfers of Egyptians from abroad that took place through banks during 1982-83 increased from $580 million to $1,059 million. During the first 6 months of 1983-84 these transfers were estimated at 120 million each month.

Concluding his statement, Dr as-Sa'id said that he expects Egyptian transfers from abroad to reach more than $1,400 million this year if matters remain as they are.

Burundian Ends Visit; Joint Statement Issued

JN222008 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1536 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — Egypt and Burundi have asserted the need to establish a just and permanent peace in the Middle East, based on the complete implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the OAU — resolutions calling for complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in the wake of the 1967 aggression.

Both countries asserted the need to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights under the leadership of the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a joint statement issued today at the end of a visit to Egypt by Laurned Nzevimana, Burundi foreign affairs and cooperation minister, Egypt and Burundi condemned Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza as being an obstacle to achieving a permanent solution to the Palestinian problem, a violation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the OAU, and a violation of the Geneva agreements and international law.

Regarding Lebanon, Burundi and Egypt asserted the need for an immediate and complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory in accordance with UN Resolutions 508 and 509. Both parties expressed their support for all the efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Lebanon, and maintaining Lebanon's independence, soveriegnty, and territorial integrity.

On the Gulf war, both parties expressed their deep concern over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and its threat to security in the region and to peace and stability in the world. Both parties reiterated the need for a prompt and peaceful settlement to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. They called on Iran to respond to the call of the international community to cease fire and enter into negotiations in order to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict.

On the situation in Chad, the Egyptian and Burundian sides expressed the hope that the disputing parties in Chad will reach an acceptable formula for national reconciliation. Both parties expressed support for the efforts being exerted by the OAU to resolve this conflict.

On the Horn of Africa, both parties agreed on the need to exert every possible effort to achieve stability in the region, pacify the situation, and reach an understanding within the framework of the principles of regional cooperation, good neighborliness, and peaceful coexistence.

On the Western Sahara, both sides expressed the belief that the solution to the problem is represented in implementing the OAU resolutions to this effect.

On southern Africa, the Egyptian and Burundian sides expressed their support for the Namibian people in their struggle for national independence under SWAPO, their sole legitimate representative. They also expressed their rejection of any attempt aimed at linking Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of the Cuban forces from Angola. Both parties reiterated the need for the immediate and unconditional implementation of UN Resolution 435 issued in 1978, which, in their viewpoint, represents a sound base to settle the problem. Both parties condemned the continued aggression carried out by South Africa against the confrontation countries, especially Angola, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Zambia. Egypt and Burundi asserted their support for the people of South Africa in their struggle to destroy the regime of racial discrimination.

Regarding the OAU, the Egyptian and Burundian sides expressed their deep concern over the dangers of the problems which threaten Africa, and agreed to exert all possible efforts to support the OAU so that it will be able to assume its leading role in solving the African problems in accordance with the principles of its charters and objectives.

On the international level, both parties expressed their concern over the deteriorating international situation, especially the escalation of the cold war. They noted the need for an effective role by the Nonaligned Movement to entrench peace and security, pacify tension, and liquidate the new colonialism and all forms of racial discrimination.

The joint statement expressed deep concern over the economic crisis in the world in general, and in Africa in particular. Both parties reiterated their support for establishing a new economic system in the world.

The statement asserted the need to effectively apply the working plan adopted by the Lagos economic conference, and to continue the efforts aimed at holding a dialogue between the North and the South.

The statement notes that the Egyptian-Burundian talks dealt with the difficult economic situation of the landlocked countries to which Burundi belongs. Both sides expressed hope that these countries will be given special attention by the international community, and that they have a greater share in the new strategy for international development.

On bilateral relations, both sides expressed the desire to strengthen and reinforce these relations in all spheres. They decided to form a joint ministerial committee whose task will be to discuss all suggestions aimed at promoting bilateral relations. This committee will meet annually, alternately in the capitals of each country.

Proceeding from their joint affiliation with the Nile basin region, both parties agreed to give special attention to this regional cooperation in accordance with the Lagos working plan.

On the current situation of cooperation, both parties expressed satisfaction with the positive developments, and asserted the importance of continuing the efforts to promote and diversify their relations for the interests of both people.

Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques

No 1,380 — 22 Feb

JN221745 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,380 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 22 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces, which fought the rancorous Iranian enemy with the sword of truth, justice, and glory, and which firmly and bravely stood against the Iranian expansionist ambitions, are capable, with the support of God and the determination of its victorious men, to confront all the treacherous enemies and crush all the suspect Iranian adventures by destroying the Iranian regime's forces of aggression regardless of their number. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Last night an enemy force tried to attack the northern and southern flanks of the IV Army Corps in the Chilat and Ash-Shib sectors. Our units confronted them with vehemence and courage using all kinds of weapons. Following a heroic battle, our units destroyed the attacking enemy force and annihilated it except for those who fled to escape our daring firepower, or those who were captured by the IV Army Corps heroes. As a result of this abortive attack, the enemy suffered a large number of dead and a great number of captured. The POW's were transferred to the rear. Large quantities of various weapons and equipment were destroyed and a large amount of serviceable weaponry and hardware was captured.

2. Formations of our daring fighter planes today carried out fierce raids against enemy positions and weapon emplacements opposite our forward positions east of Basra and deep inside Iranian territory. Our planes hit and destroyed an enemy air defense system [manzumah] and a number of troop and vehicle assembly points. All of our fighter planes returned safely to their positions, praise be to God.

3. Using artillery and other kinds of weapons, our forward units pounded enemy concentrations, positions, artillery emplacements, and troop and vehicle assembly points in the area east of Basra. Our units scored very accurate, effective hits and inflicted on the enemy heavy losses in men, weapons, and equipment.

4. One of our forward units opened fire at a group of enemy soldiers which tried to advance toward our forward positions in the central sector of the front. The enemy were forced to flee after sustaining a number of casualties.

5. One was killed in the northern sector of the front.

6. The criminal Iranian enemy shelled with heavy artillery last night and today Ash-Shihabi, Tuwaylah, and their environs. The shelling demolished two houses in Tuwaylah and damaged civilian property in Ash-Shihabi.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 February 1984.

No 1,381 — 22 Feb

JN222154 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2127 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,381 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 22 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And cast terror into their hearts; so that some ye slew, and some ye made prisoners. [Koranic verse]

O glorious Iraqis, O great men of our Armed Forces. As we have expected, the enemy began its attack on our territory east of Basra at 2200 today. The victorious men of Iraq confornted the enemy there, armed with their faith and boldness. They began cutting off the decaying brains and destroying the ignominious forces of aggression in front of the Iraqi defensive positions. They are symbolizing the principles of honor and glory in defense of the chaste Iraqi soil and the nation's values.

O victorious men in the III Army Corps sector. This is your day. Let it be a glorious day. Crush them, have no mercy on them, and plunge the charlatan's henchmen in the quagmire of defeat and in the swamp of humiliation toward which they have pushed themselves, so that you may restore sanity to those who remain alive. They have lost all the traits of honor and humanity.

God and the spirit of greatness is with you. Satan is their ally and evil is their aim. Victory will be on the side of the truthful men and the victorious, sincere fighters such as you.

God is your supporter. God is great. Glory is for great Iraq. God is great. Let the invaders be put to shame.

No 1,382 — 23 Feb

JN230717 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,382 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 23 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

We relate thee their story in truth: They were youths who believed in their lord, and we advanced them, in guidance. [Koranic verse]

Glad tidings to the great Iraqi people. Great Iraqi people, the sons of the glorious Arab nation, wherever they may be, lofty men on the battlefronts wherever you are, God is great, God is great, God is great. Right has triumphed and injustice has been repulsed. Evil will always be defeated.

Brothers, the aggressors' bodies have been dismembered and within hours, the aggressors' troop concentrations were transformed into bodies littering the pure soil of Basra. God has humiliated them. Praise be to God on his loftiest throne, God is great.

Iraq has triumphed and its enemies and the enemies of the nation have been defeated, Praise be to God, the God of all mankind.

Brothers, there is no way in which we can describe the battles to you. Their troop concentrations, of which they boasted, have been transformed into piles of dead bodies and food for the vultures. Let them go to hell as this is the fate they deserve. God has wished them ruin at the hands of the faithful Iraqis. Satan thus whispered in their ears to carry out their treacherous aggression. The Iraqis' determination and their strong and faithful fists were the instrument of their destruction. Thousands of the evil aggressor enemy vanished when confronted by the blows of the proud Iraqis in the same way that salt is dissolved when put in warm water. Felicitations to the Iraqi people for their righteous and loyal sons. Felicitations to the nation for their righteous, faithful, and steadfast sons in Iraq. Blessed be your victory, O heroes — commanders, officers, and righteous fighters in the III Army Corps sector.

O men, tell Khomeyni and his collaborators with all faith that you are here and ask if there are any challengers? Challenge the demented despots because, by God, there can be no better treatment for their chronic sickness and their evil complexes than cauterization. Keep your fingers on the trigger, keep your eyes open and your consciences alert in order to fulfill the hopes that have been pinned on you by your families and Iraq to carry out future battles in the next few days. Victory will be yours, God willing. God is great.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, on 23 February 1984

Iranian Forces Wiped Out East of Basra

JN222338 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2320 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have received from the war front, east of Basra, the news that the harmful insects which the enemy pushed into the furnace of death and ignominy have been completely wiped off the face of the earth. Those who remained alive fled from God's hell on the Iraqi territory. Thus, the attacks of the treacherous enemies on the advance lines of the forward positions of the heroic Al-Muthanna forces have been annihilated. While bringing these good tidings to our great Iraqi people and our Armed Forces in other sectors of the front and everywhere, we point out that battles are still raging and that despite the fact the victorious Iraqis are the lords of this war — as we hoped they would be — continuous alertness and wariness must be a strong basis for keeping the initiative in your hand until you destroy all the enemey's reckless human waves — which the enemy may consider dispatching to the front tonight or in the future, on this sector or on the other sectors. God is great. Glory to you and death to your enemies, the enemies of God and humanity.

[Dated] 23 February 1984.

III Army Corps Commander Congratulates President

JN230840 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] To the glory and pride of the Arabs, the victorious President-leader Saddam Husayn, from the staff major general, commander of the III Army Corps.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: Of them some have completed their vow to the extreme and some still wait: But they have never changed their determination in the least [Koranic verse].

President-leader: As confident, determined, and loyal men we pledged to you, to the people, and the homeland yesterday that, with God's help, your determination, and the staunchness of our fighters in the Al-Qadisiyah forces, we were determined to wipe out their aggression and capable of inflicting the most humiliating defeat in order to force the enemies of Islam, the symbols of Mazdaism and Zoroastrianism in Iran to go down on their knees. We pledged to you that our deeds and not our words would speak for us. The results were the judge. Thus, we confirmed your confidence in your noble fighters in the heroic III Army Corps sector as we previously did in the splendid Panjwin battles and in the sectors of the heroic I Army Corps.

Felicitations to the triumphant leader and the interpid knight, the righteous son of the nation, who began great Iraq's development. Felicitations to our beloved people, the proud homeland, and the noble Arab nation on our victory in settling the battle in the second east of Basra epic. Your sons in the east of Basra sector will settle future battles if the enemy decides to repeat its aggression. The enemy will sustain losses which it has never dreamed of. Let the end of the war come, with God's help, at the hands of the heroes of the III Army Corps sector who will not allow the desecration of one inch of our homeland. God is the one who grants success.

[Signed] The Staff Major General, the Commander of the III Army Corps, on 23 February 1984.

Army Commander on Battles East of Basra

JN231015 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — The staff major general commanding the III Army Corps has stated that, through the battles, his forces will impose a military settlement on the Iranians. In a statement to *AL-JUMHURIYAH* today, he added that in order to settle the war, his forces will continue to strike firecely and with all the strength that they possess. He said that the III Army Corps forces, at dawn today, wiped out an Iranian offensive in the area east of Basra and that his forces are now engaged with Iranian units which the enemy is trying to push toward the forward Iraqi units' positions. The military commander explained that the III Army Corps defense lines are strong and reassuring and will enable their defenders to achieve quick results in settling the battle.

Field Commander Denies Iranian War Claims

JN231109 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] East Basra, 23 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military field commander has stressed that the Iraqi forces are determined to crush all the Iranian forces and to completely wipe them out before they establish a foothold on one inch of Iraqi soil.

The field commander ridiculed the claims carried by IRNA that the Iranian forces have reached the Tigris and the Euphrates and have taken control of the Basra-Baghdad highway, and affirmed that the Iraqi blow was so fierce that it overwhelmed and silenced the Iranian military commanders leaving only the news agency of the Iranian regime to claim such imaginary victories.

The field commander stressed that the Iraqis' determination will make the Iranian forces a shattered wreckage. He added that the Iranian news agency's hallucinations are excused because it has not yet awakened from the impact of the stupefying blow that Iran has sustained and the huge losses inflicted on its forces during their abortive offensive against Iraq.

Commander Denies Fall of Al-'Ammarah-Basra Highway

JN231115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Maysan, 23 Feb (INA) — The staff major general commanding the IV Army Corps, has denied Iranian claims of controlling the Al-'Ammarah-Basra highway in the Maysan sector.

In a statement to the INA team at an advanced post on the battlefield, the commander said that the enemy makes false claims every time it believes it necessary to alleviate the increasing indignation on the domestic level and to be able to carry on with its aggression against Iraq.

The commander of the IV Army Corps added that like all the other Army Corps in the other sectors of the battlefield, the IV Army Corps has succeeded in wiping out in record time all the troop concentrations which the enemy had pushed toward the crematorium of death and that the battlefield is littered with the bodies of dead Iranians and destroyed enemy vehicles and military hardware. The commander added that the members of the enemy force in this sector have either fled defeated and humiliated or have been taken prisoner.

Spokesman on Iranian Shelling of Basra 23 Feb

JN231233 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] We have received the following. A military spokesman has stated: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. After the dreams of the criminals who are ruling in Tehran have vanished, dreams in which they dreamed of desecrating the soil of great Iraq, and after their troop concentrations were transformed into dismembered bodies littering the battlefield east of Basra, the criminal Iranian regime, at 1240 today, shelled Basra and its suburbs with heavy artillery, wounding six civilians, destroying one civilian vehicle, and damaging another vehicle and several civilian installations and properites.

Thus, the evil Iranian enemy, as expected, reaffirms that it does not abide by its promises. God is great, loftinees to our great people, and humiliation and ignomimy to the charlatans in Qom and Tehran. 23 February 1984.

Iranian POW's Report Commander Killed in Battle

JN231354 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 23, INA — The commander of the Iranian force which mounted an offensive last Tuesday night in the sector of the Fourth Iraqi Army Corps was killed, according to the Baghdad daily *ATH-THAWRAH* today.

Reporting from the scene, the newspaper correspondent quoted enemy captured soldiers in the sector as saying that their commander was killed along with an Iranian battalion which was totally anihilated.

Further new groups of Iranian POW's were evacuated to the rear lines of the Fourth Army Corps last night, the correspondent said.

Commander Interviewed on Current Fighting

JN231400 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — The staff major general commanding the III Army Corps has stated that his forces are fully prepared to engage the enemy forces if they once again try to test their bad luck east of Basra.

In an interview with INA, the commander said that his forces which crushed the Iranian enemy in the second epic east of Basra are confident of defeating the enemy and destroying its evil forces, irrespective of their size and number.

The commander of the III Army Corps explained the progress of the battles which have been raging in the area. He said: The Al-Qadisiyah Forces' command in coordination with the intelligence organs pinpointed the exact date that the enemy aggression was to take place after having accurately monitored the enemy units' movements. He added: The enemy offensive was launched on the date we have set. The enemy forces attacked the front of the Al-Muthanna forces, part of the Qutaybah forces, and the left flank of the [III Army] Corps in various places in Khowr-e Hoveyzeh while other enemy units approached other divisions of our forces in the III Army Corps sector.

The commander said that as usual the enemy began its offensive in the early hours to benefit from the cover of darkness, stressing that this enemy is stupid because it did not remember what befell its forces when they carried out their offensive in the third Panjwin battle in the early hours and how we defeated them and scored a brilliant victory against them. The commander said that at the beginning of the offensive, the enemy forces established a foothold on the front of various formations and pushed groups of their elements in an attempt to infiltrate the positions. Fierce fighting raged all through the late hours of the night and during the early hours of the morning in which screen forces, and guard units, and some of the regular forces participated.

Late at night or in the early hours of the day, our formations in their positions, in cooperation with the counteroffensive formations and units, succeeded in repulsing the enemy and wiping out all its remnants, including the groups that tried to infiltrate. Only those who died in the main positions, the guards' positions, and along the screen lines escaped. [sentence as received]

The commander added: We will leave it to the Iraqi, Arab, and foreign press correspondents and photoghraphers who visit the area, to assess the extent of the losses sustained by the enemy during the first part of the abortive offensive, and become acquainted with the splendid victories that were scored by our units in the epic east of Basra.

The commander added: The heroes of our III Army Corps have reaffirmed to the losing enemy that when we say we will engage it in fighting, we surpass it with our acts and confirm these acts with results.

On a question by INA on the extent of the enemy losses during its defeated offensive, the commander of the Corps said a review of the extent of these losses certainly reflects the state of anger harbored by our valiant Army and that this anger forms the basis of any clashes with the enemy.

He added: The extent of these losses is also in harmony with the ferocity of the fighting as the enemy lost huge numbers of its forces which were either killed, wounded, or captured, and several of its tanks were destroyed. The commander added that the bodies of the dead Iranians are littering the marshes near Khowr-e Hoveyzeh and that our forces have started to assemble the enemy's wounded and lost elements in the area and are evacuating them to the rear.

The commander also said that our units destroyed enemy steam boats in Khowr-e Hoveyzeh whether near the barriers or in the middle of the sea while the major part of the enemy's artillery and its various types of military hardware were destroyed by our artillery fire and our destructive missiles.

Iranian Occupation of Two Iraqi Towns Denied

JN231410 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — The administrative officer of Al-Qurnah has ridiculed Iranian claims on the occupation of the two southern towns of Al-Qurnah and Al-'Aziz. He emphasized to an INA correspondent in the southern sector that these claims are part of the lies to which the Tehran rulers resort after every blow dealt to their forces by the Iraqi forces. He stressed that the citizens of Al-Qurnah and all other Iraqi towns will crush with their feet all the harmful insects which try to undermine our sovereignty or occupy our land.

Defense Minister Cables Saddam Husayn on Victories

JN231315 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] We have received the following from the battlefronts — III Army Corps sector: Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, has sent the following cable from the scene of the battle to President-leader Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, congratulating his excellency on the splendid victories in the Basra epic:

From the Armed Forces deputy commander in chief and defense minister to his excellency the Armed Forces commander in chief, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, and president of the republic: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

God made it but a message of hope for you, and an assurance to your hearts: (In any case) there is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verse]

Your Excellency: Not long ago, the hands of the Shu'ubists with their grudges were extended to scare the children, women, and old men of Basra and to pour out their bombs without conscience or honor. They killed innocent women and children. Those Shu'ubists with their grudge and their complexes which they have carried throughout history, were not satisfied with what they have done. They committed the crime of 22 February by a new aggression to destroy the blossoms of wellbeing, and to deprive Iraq's children of their smile through a grudge the likes of which history has never known. They concocted their failing assult against proud Iraq in the sector of the steadfast III Army Corps to sow terror and death on the children of Basra, and to desecrate its pure land — the land of the nation and great Iraq.

Your Excellency the president: With faithful and loyal hearts which believe in victory under the leader of victory, the beloved of the nation, and the protector of its banner; from the battlefield — the bastion of your victorious and patient soldiers who believe in the inevitability of triumph, who are proud to defend lofty Iraq, and who are proud to stand in the Al-Qadisyah of loftiness, dignity, and honor to defend Iraq and Iraqi women, and to defend the principles and values of the nation under your leadership in the face of brutal onslaught. From the front trenches of your men where gunpowder has been mixed with blood in defense of our principles and territory, God willing I will inform Your Excellency of the decisive victory.

Greetings of love and admiration to the wombs which gave birth and nursed the elite men, and which taught them to love their homeland and to sacrifice their life for its sake. We promise you that your Armed Forces which believe in victory will remain loyal and honest to the homeland, and will defend its dignity and honor. Greetings of love and loyalty from your patient soldiers. We vow to continue to sacrifice until we achieve victory. Proud greetings to the souls of our martyrs. We vow to them to march on their path until victory.

[Signed] Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister on 23 February 1984.

Ramadan Speech to Army Group Reported

JN221700 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and commander in chief of the Popular Army, has asserted that the glorious sons of Iraq are capable of crowning the march of the 17-30 July revolution with a decisive, clear victory over the Iranian regime. In a speech he made while seeing off a group of Popular Army fighters in Al-Muthanna Governorate who were heading to the front lines to fight the Iranian regime's forces of aggression, Ramadan said that our people's great steadfastness and confrontation of the treacherous Iranian aggression against great Iraq has become a model and a paragon of bravery and heroism in the Arab nation.

Ramadan conveyed love and greetings from the leader of our march, struggler President Saddam Husayn, to the Al-Muthanna fighters and to the Popular Army fighters and our Armed Forces along the entire front line. He wished them a safe return, crowned with the laurels of final victory.

Also present at the send-off ceremony were Comrade Mazban Khadr Hadi, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary of the Al-Furat Ba'th Party branch; the chief of staff of the Popular Army; Muzhir Mitni 'Awwad, governor of Al-Muthanna Governorate; the commander of Al-Muthanna Governorate's Popular Army division; and a number of Popular Army officials.

Diplomatic Relations With Libya Severed

JN221810 Amman Televison Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The cabinet met today and held deliberations on the circumstances and dimensions of the incident which led to the burning down of the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli and which exposed the lives of Jordanian diplomats to danger. Accordingly, the cabinet decided to sever diplomatic and political relations with Libya as of today.

'Ubaydat Speech to House

JN221333 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat has disclosed new details about the criminal incident against the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli. The details became available after the Jordanian ambassador's arrival from Libya yesterday evening.

'Ubaydat said that representatives of the Palestinian resistance factions in Libya sent a message to the Jordanian ambassador via an ambassador denying any connection with the incident. They also expressed surprise at being implicated in this filthy affair, which does not serve the Palestinian cause or any other Arab cause.

In a statement at a session the House of Representatives held this morning at the request of several House members, the prime minister said that the group that stormed the embassy numbered about 200-250 persons whom the Libyan authorities transported in five buses. They consisted of workers and mercenaries from Chad, in addition to Libyan intelligence men, Libyan police in civilian clothes and military uniform, and some of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's female bodyguards.

'Ubaydat said that the contacts the Libyan charge d'affaires in Amman held with the Foreign Ministry and the contacts between the Jordanian ambassador and the Libyan authorities resulted only in the Libyan foreign liaison secretary's regret of the incident and his promise to exert efforts to promote Jordanian-Libyan relations in the future. The secretary requested that the incident not undermine bilateral relations. The prime minister added that the Libyan response was not acceptable according to the Jordanian Government's evaluation of the incident. Moreover, if intentions were good, At-Turayki's apology to our ambassador should have led the Libyan Government to stop its continuing information campaign against Jordan — king, government, and people.

'Ubaydat announced that the cabinet will adopt a decision this evening on Jordanian-Libyan relations.

House Issues Resolution

JN221718 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Amman, 22 Feb (PETRA) — The House of Representatives has announced its denunciation and condemnation of and indignation at the Libyan regime's criminal action against the Jordanian Embassy in Libya. In its resolution today, the House also supported the Jordanian Government on any measures that it will take to guarantee the interests of the homeland and the citizens. The following is the text of the resolution:

During its session on Wednesday, 22 February 1984, the House of Representatives listened to the prime minister's statement, which came at the request of the House, on the treacherous aggression against the Jordanian Embassy in the Libyan capital. It learned the details of that aggression, which proved to be a premeditated arrangement that the Libyan authorities planned, prepared, and carried out.

In light of these facts and the angry reactions from all Jordanian people, and on the basis of its responsibility, commitment to its duties toward the homeland and the citizens, and its concern about the citizens' honor and safety and about protecting their property, the House of Representatives announces its denunciation and condemnation of and indignation over the Libyan regime's criminal and immoral action, an action which conflicts with the basic Arab and Islamic rules, the principles of international law, and diplomatic norms. The House of Representatives holds the Libyan authorities responsible for that aggression. It also supports the Jordanian Government's measures to guarantee the interests of the homeland and the citizens. It has decided to inform all Arab and international bodies of this resolution.

King Receives European Parliament Official

JN222243 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at An-Nadwah Palace today Rieter Dankert, president of the European Parliament, who arrived in Amman this evening. His majesty explained to him the Palestinian developments, asserting that the only means of ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East is to bring about a just solution for this basic problem, including the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242 and realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. His majesty affirmed that the peace equation as viewed by Jordan is to restore territories and rights in exchange for a comprehensive peace.

His majesty referred to the importance of Europe's positive role in contributing toward peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the foreign minister, the Jordanian ambassador in Brussels, and the EEC representative in Amman.

Mr Dankert arrived in Amman this evening on a 3-day official visit to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of senior officials. He was received at the airport by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the Jordanian ambassador to Belgium and the EEC countries, the French ambassador, the EEC countries' delegate in Amman, and Foreign Ministry representatives.

Foreign Minister on Future Political Moves

JN230736 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Feb 84 p 24

[Text] London — QNA — Jordan's Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has stated that the current Jordanian political move is based on acheiving an understanding first with the PLO and second with the Arab countries.

In a statement to the London-based *AL-HAWADITH* — published tomorrow, Friday — Al-Masri said the Jordanian move is divided into four stages: achieving an understanding with the PLO; presenting this understanding to the Arab countries; moving toward the United States with the agreed plan; and, subsequently, U.S. pressure on Israel.

In the statement, Tahir al-Masri said that Jordan does not want to replace the PLO. He noted that the Palestinian representation in any joint delegation in future negotiations will take into consideration the international dimensions on the one hand and the desire of the Palestinian people on the other.

Lebanon's Walid Junblatt Reportedly in Amman

JN230721 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt arrived in Amman yesterday.

PRC President To Pay Visit 8-13 March

JN221313 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] A reponsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court has announced that, at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn, PRC President Li Xiannian will pay an official visit to Jordan from 8 to 13 March 1984. During the visit, the PRC president will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn on current international issues, means of promoting bilateral relations, and expanding joint cooperation in various fields.

Al-Hariri Briefs Salim, Al-Jumayyil on Damascus Talks

NC221730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri arrived at the Presidential Palace in B'abda and met Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim at 1530. Al-Hariri was then received by President Amin al-Jumayyil, who was briefed by Al-Hariri on the proposals and views he brought from Damascus.

Al-Hariri is scheduled to return to Damascus tonight to present the Lebanese answer to the Saudi working team and to Syrian officials.

Radio Free Lebanon Report

NC222255 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2245 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The meeting that began at 2100 today in B'abda Palace between President al-Jumayyil and Saudi envoy Rafiq al-Hariri ended a short while ago. Al-Hariri will leave again for Damascus today [23 February] to convey the Lebanese viewpoint on the Syrian-Saudi talks which took palce in the past 2 days.

The Saudi envoy intensified his contacts with Lebanese leaders this evening. He also contacted Prince Bandar ibn Sultan in Damascus and informed him about the escalation of the security situation following his arrival in Beirut and his meeting with Minister Salim.

Al-Jumayyil on Problems of Foreign Involvement

PM221105 Paris PARIS MATCH in French 24 Feb 84 pp 39, 42, 51

[Interview with President Amin al-Jumayyil by Jean Larteguy in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] Jean Larteguy: It was 17 months ago, in September 1982, that you were elected president unanimously by all the deputies, whether Christians, Muslims, Shi'ites, or Sunnis, apart from approximately three exceptions. You represented hope, opportunity. And in 17 months, by who knows what diabolical process, you have become....

Amin al-Jumayyil: The man to be killed?

Jean Larteguy: Worse than that: the man whom people want to ignore, who has been left out. You are troublesome, you provide reminders of certain promises, certain commitments that have not been honored. How many Judas' kisses have you received? Israeli radio is already talking about your successor. The names of Raymond Iddih and Dany Sham'un are being mentioned. Nevertheless, you are still legally the embodiment of Lebanon.

Amon al-Jumayyil: Not for them, because for Israel I am not the embodiment of an Israeli Lebanon, and for Damascus I am not the embodiment of a Syrian Lebanon. But I do embody the real Lebanon.

Jean Larteguy: The Shi'ites are challenging you. They took Beirut in a few hours. The Army regained Beirut in heavy fighting, but now it is not fighting. It is allowing it to happen. This Army, which should be your most loyal supporter, and those troops who are not deserting are returning to their barracks. To play cards? And, as in the game of snakes and ladders, Lebanon is returning to square one, as it did 10 years ago. Beirut is again splitting into two, with the Christian sector on one side and the Muslim city on the other.

Amin al-Jumayyil: It is true, we are back at square one, but that is not the most important thing. Let us be frank: Where do the national differences end? And where does foreign interference begin? We must succeed, at least in Lebanon, in making this distinction, drawing the demarcation line between what is national and what is not.... Some Palestinians have forged relations outside the country. Their statements reflect influences, arguments, and topics that are not Lebanese. This is the price they are paying for a particular kind of assistance. Sometimes they even believe it.... All the disruption, the bombs, and the foreign invasions create such confusion that the situation can only be perceived on the spot; people forget that we retain institutions that, despite everything, constitute the Lebanese state.

You are too blinded by what is happening here. Whether Muslims or Christians, the Lebanese value these institutions. A group of Muslim political leaders who met in Damascus said that they rejected my resignation, that everything must take place within the framework of the legal institutions.

Jean larteguy: Is your palace being shot at?

Amin al-Jumayyil: No. Shots are being fired only to punish — through me — Lebanon for having refused to be Syrian or Israeli. Jerusalem and Damascus want their own kind of Lebanon that will reflect their own policy. All I want is a Lebanese Lebanon, in solidarity with the Arab world, which refuses to be a satellite of any other country.

Jean Larteguy: Is that why you refused to ratify the 17 May 1983 Lebanese-Israeli accord?

Amin al-Jumayyil: I did sign it, and parliament ratified it.

Jean Larteguy: But Israel accuses you of not having done so.

Amin al-Jumayyil: The accord has not been implemented because of a suspensive clause. The Syrians should have agreed to evacuate their troops at the same time as the Israelis. They refused. The Israelis deliberatedly granted the Syrians this right of veto in the knowledge that they would use it, thus authorizing them not to withdraw.

Jean Larteguy: So it was a trap? The Syrians and Israelis were in league?

Amin al-Jumayyil: Go and ask them.

Jean Larteguy: The Americans are withdrawing some of their troops. The British have already done so. I do not know what the French will do. Do you feel you are being abandoned by the West and that we will pay for that abandonment one day when we are in the front line?

Amin al-Jumayyil: Go and say that to the Western countries! Tell them that we are an outpost!

Jean Larteguy: This outpost to resist the communist tide and Muslim fundamentalism must be supplied. How will you be able to survive without the Western aid which people seem to want to withdraw from you?

Amin al-Jumayyil: All foreign aid ought to contribute to our country's unity and not to its destruction. And we cannot count on that aid and the Multinational Force's presence forever. That presence ought to help us to secure the national consensus which would enable us to find a compromise, which would enable us to establish a sound, strong society which would be able to protect itself.

Jean Larteguy: You had every chance 16 months ago. So what happened?

Amin al-Jumayyil: That is true. Everybody gave me a chance, everybody was with me. I only had problems with those close to me, much more than with those who now oppose me. I was accepted by everyone until Lebanon had to take a stance on the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. It was back in July that my problems began — as soon as that agreement was signed.

Jean Larteguy: Why did you sign it then?

Amin al-Jumayyil: I had to choose between losing southern Lebanon, it being turned into a Golan Heights, or accepting a compromise with Israel. It took us 8 months to draw up that agreement. The negotiations were very difficult! We reached that agreement with U.S. help and at the least expense for us.

Jean Larteguy: Was it with U.S. aid or pressure?

Amin al-Jumayyil: The only presure was that which existed in the field with the Israeli forces who were bringing pressure to bear on the population. At the very beginning of the occupation you too witnessed the use which the Germans made of some French collaborators in a monolithic and united country like France. However, we in Lebanon have a very divided religious and ethnic society and it is much easier to exploit this mosaic of conflicting interests. And the same was true of the Syrians. As soon as that 17 May agreement was signed, internal conflicts were exploited giving a new dimension, an armed dimension, to the demands of some Lebanese groupings.

Jean Larteguy: Didn't that foreign interference exist before you came to power? In addition there was the Palestinian interference which was at least eliminated when 'Arafat's capital was West Beirut. Surely you should have expected it?

Amin al-Jumayyil: That is why I chose a strong ally, like the United States, which had no territorial ambitions in my country, in order to safeguard me against certain Israeli and Syrian ambitions and to help me assert the Lebanese entity outside any other direct foreign influence.

Jean Larteguy: Where do you stand now?

Amin al-Jumayyil: I am going to surprise you. I still have the Palestinian people's support: the Muslim, the Christian, the left-wing Lebanese, the right-wing Lebanese, the Lebanese who is afraid of adventure and chaos support me. The Lebanese have been living in chaos for 9 years. Do you think they accept it? They want to overcome it. In their eyes I am the last chance, the ray of sun and hope.

Jean Larteguy: But the Lebanese people cannot come to the conference table because far too many seats would be needed; only their representatives can come. But, being subjected to all kinds of pressures, they will not.

Amin al-Jumayyil: They will come just as they came to Geneva when the battle was raging in the Lebanese mountains and when the country was thought to be in its death throes. And Geneva nonetheless aroused new hope. Lebanon is a country of infinitely renewed hope.

Jean Larteguy: And so often dashed!

Amin al-Jumayyil: During the shelling of Al-Ashrafiyah people I did not know constantly telephoned me, encouraged me, and told me they were with me and beside me.

Jean Larteguy: Will you not be forced to become the president of the Christians alone?

Amin al-Jumayyil: At present the Muslims, be they Sunnis or Shi'ites, are more attached to me than the Christians. Not one of them has demanded my resignation.

Jean Larteguy: What about the Christians?

Amin al-Jumayyil: There are some nostalgic, romantic people among them.

Jean Larteguy: Are you referring to the Lebanese Forces?

Amin al-Jumayyil: I am not naming anybody. Some of them, some of those Christians, were not upset by Beirut's fall. They regarded that tragic event as the prelude to a different era which would make it possible to bring out new plans. Today the roles are reversed: The Muslims are traumatized by Amin al-Jumayyil's departure... or rather they would be traumatized by his departure.

Birri Activities, Amal Bureau Actions Reported

NC221750 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1650 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew, with whom he reviewed the current situation and the proposed political solutions for the crisis. They also reviewed the withdrawal of the Marines from Lebanon.

Birri was contacted by former Minister Marwan Hamadah, with whom he discussed developments.

Birri today received a check for 1.5 million Lebanese pounds, collected as contributions in Ba'labakk in aid of Beirut's southern suburb.

The Amal Movement Political Bureau today held a meeting under Colonel 'Akif Haydar. The bureau affirmed its satisfaction with lawyer Birri's visit to Damascus, the north, and the Al-Biqa'.

In response to the call of Shaykh Muhammad Shams ad-Din, Amal's Political Bureau declared that tomorrow will be a day of mourning to mark 1 week since the martyrdom of Shaykh Raghib Harb.

Birri Hosts Meeting on W. Beirut Measures

NC221353 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] A meeting was held at the home of Nabih Birri [in West Beirut] today. Participating in the meeting were 'Akif Haydar, Dr Ayyub Humayyid, former ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Secretary General Fu'ad Salman, PSP Command Council members Muhsin Dallul and Anwar al-Fatayri, Chief of Staff Major General Nadim al-Hakim, and Beirut emergency police chief Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki. During the meeting, agreement was reached on all the topics and issues relating to the implementation of the measures announced yesterday by Nabih Birri and on the removal of all obstacles and difficulties.

Birri announced that he will clarify some points which some quarters yesterday tried to distort or misinterpret.

Birri also received U.S. Ambassador Bartholomew and discussed the latest developments with him.

Birri: Shelling Aims To Foil Security Plan

NC221830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Tension prevails following the escalation this afternoon along the contact lines which are still witnessing clashes that are violent at times. Shells landed on the southern suburb, B'abda, Al-Hazimiyah, Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Wadi Abu Jamil, and the Henry Shihab Barracks area.

Commenting on the shelling, Lawyer Nabih Birri, the leader of the Amal Movement, said that the shelling aims to foil the security plan under which the Army will be deployed tomorrow to support the Internal Security Forces. Lawyer Birri warned against any attempt to hinder the implementation of this plan. He said such attempts will affect the whole capital. He stressed that these attempts will not deter us from implementing this unique national step.

Tension in Beirut; Security Plan Begins

NC230758 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Marked tension continues to prevail along the axes of clashes in Beirut, the southern suburb, and the mountain area despite the fact that the intensity of yesterday's clashes has somewhat eased after claiming more dead and wounded.

The implementation of the agreed security measures in West Beirut began at 0800 today. The Army in the area is extending its support to the Internal Security Forces, which have deployed patrols in various streets and quarters in the capital. The Army will deploy on the Airport Road and the roads leading to the airport preparatory to its reopening after the completion of the consultations being held in this regard.

6th Brigade Patrols W. Beirut

NC230834 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The 6th Brigade has begun vehicular and foot patrols in the streets of West Beirut. The patrols have not reached the Airport Road because of the gunmen deployed there.

Fadi Afram on Need To Strengthen Lebanese Forces

NC221821 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Fadi Afram, Lebanese Forces Command Council chairman, said in a statement to be published in tomorrow's press that the Lebanese Forces, following the Army's defeat in West Beirut and considering the military developments that may take place on the fronts, find themselves compelled to reestablish their former strength through the vitalization of their institutions, the callup of the reserves, and through mobilization in the military, social, and cultural fields, as well as in other fields in which we gained experience through 10 years of resistance.

The Lebanese Forces commander stressed that the Lebanese Forces are at the highest level of combat readiness in order to confront any possible attack on any front or any disintegration of an Army unit. They have sufficient resources to fill any vacuum that may take place at any time. After 10 years of experience, we are convinced, the Lebanese Forces commander said, that we must primarily depend on ourselves.

Fadi Afram affirmed that the new Lebanon that will emerge from the ordeal must be founded on firm principles and bases that will guarantee the Christian existence and provide it with a clear view of the future.

The Lebanese Forces commander explained that the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement will mean moving in the direction of Syria, and this is what we reject. Maintaining the agreement means that Lebanon maintains its freedom of decision and its affiliation with the free world, he said this is what we, as the Lebaense Forces, want.

Christian, Muslim Leaders Issue Statement

NC221713 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The meeting of religious leaders held in the Greek Orthodox bishopric today called for an immediate cease-fire, the opening of the crossing points, the elimination of the contact lines, the release of all kidnapped people, and the return of the unity of the Lebanese people and its land and institutions. The conferees formed a committee to prepare for a summit of religious figures.

This was contained in a statement released after the meeting this afternoon. The statement was read by Bishop Ilyas 'Awdah. The following is a recording of the statement:

[Begin 'Awdah recording] At the invitation of His Eminence Patriarch Ighnatius IV Hazim, a meeting was held in the Greek Orthodox bishopric in Beirut at 1030 on Wednesday, 22 February 1984. Attending the meeting were His Eminence Cardinal Mar Antonius Butrus Khuraysh; His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of Lebanon; His Eminence Shaykh Muhammd Mahdi Shams ad-Din, the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council deputy chairman; His Beatitude Patriarch Maximus V Hakim; Catholicos Karakin Sarakisian; His Beatitude Patriarch Yuhanna Butrus Kasparian; Bishop Athanasius Afram, representative of his beatitude the patriarch of the Orthodox Syriac; Bishop Afram Jarjur, representative of the Syrian Catholics; Bishop Jubra'il Basta, representative of the Chaldean sect; Bishop [name indistinct], representative of the Assyrian sect; Bishop [name indistinct], representative of the Roman Catholic sect; Reverend Salim Suhyuni, representative of the Anglican church; as well as a number of bishops of other sects and Muslim ulema.

The conferees issued the following statement:

An atmosphere of friendly understanding and a common feeling of spiritual and national intimacy prevailed at the meeting, an intimacy which strongly unifies all the Lebanese sects. This intimacy is the basis of the unity of all Lebanese.

The conferees studied all aspects of the tragic political, security, and social situation in Lebanon. They reviewed the deep pain and suffering of all Lebanese sects and factions resulting from the destruction, evictions, devastation, death, and kidnapping that are befalling the homeland and citizens in all areas without exception. The conferees believe it is imperative to exert the utmost efforts to put an end to this pain once and for all, and primarily to pave the way for a sincere and constructive dialogue that will return to the Lebanese their unity.

The conferees decided on the following:

1. To immediately seek the release of all kidnapped of all factions without exception.

2. To emphasize the need to open the crossing points and abolish the contact lines in Beirut within the framework of an immediate cease-fire.

3. To call on all Lebanese to sincerely pray to Almighty God and express their prayers, obedience, and sincere repentance so that peace can be established in Lebanon and the unity of the Lebanese people, land, and institutions be restored.

4. To form a committee to prepare for a spiritual summit. [end recording]

Franjiyah Holds News Conference 22 February

NC221240 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] At his weekly news conference this morning, former President Sulayman Franjiyah spoke about various recent events and developments in Lebanon. He denounced the assassination of Shaykh Raghib Harb, imam of Jibshit, saying: A homeland, wherever it may be in the world but whose people are like the people of the south, is invincible and, God willing, it will triumph, no matter how long it takes.

After speaking about the tragic situation in the mountain, former President Franjiyah expressed hope that those in power will choose one of two things: either they withdraw the Army from the battlefield, or they withdraw Israel's agents from this battlefield. In either case, fighting will stop because the Army is our army, and none of us wishes the Army anything but happiness and success. Therefore, in the event the Army withdraws, Israel's agents will withdraw to hell forever. This is of course if those in power are to avert a deadly disaster.

Former President Franjiyah expressed hope that in the event UN emergency forces are sent to Lebanon, these forces will have a clear mission to implement. He also expressed hope that the UN emergency forces will be drawn from various nationalities, especially from various ideologies, that is, from the West and the East. This is if the United Nations wants to spare Lebanon calamities.

Former President Franjiyah noted that his meeting with President al-Jumayyil in the scouts city [as heard] was for the purpose of exchanging viewpoints. He said: You know that regrettably our viewpoints were different. Each one of us expressed his viewpoint, but up to this day I have no evidence that his excellency has been convinced of my viewpoint.

Concerning the security plan to be implemented in West Beirut, former President Franjiyah said: I bless this step because, if implemented as it has been adopted by Nabih Birri, it will be unequivocal proof that there are still those in Lebanon who think logically and who work sincerely for their country.

Shams Ad-Din Meets FRG Diplomat on UN Forces

NC221813 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text]Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din met today met with the FRG charge d'affaires in Beirut in the presence of Ja'fairite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, Deputy Husayn al-Husayni, and several members of the council. Shaykh Shams ad-Din affirmed to the FRG charge d'affaires the clear and firm stance of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council on the need for the deployment of the UN emergency forces throughout the south, for the implementation of the UN and Security Council resolutions on Lebanon, and for UN forces to serve as a link between the Lebanese and to safeguard the unity of Lebanon's territory, people, and institutions.

AFP: Envoys From Only 5 Countries Remain

NC221410 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut, Feb 22 (AFP) — Only five nations — Britian, France, Italy, the United States and the Soviet Union — still have ambassadors in Lebanon, according to the Lebanese foreign ministry.

The remaining 84 diplomatic missions here have either closed down completely or been left in the hands of charges d'affaires or other lower-ranking staff, the ministry said.

The depletions followed the takeover of West Beirut by Shi'ite militia from the Lebanese Army earlier this month.

Some countries, such as Brazil, Spain, Chile and Turkey, have transferred their embassies from West Beirut to their ambassador's residence, usually located in southern Beirut near the presidential palace.

The Lebanese foreign ministry said only France, South Korea and Japan had given notice of the closure of transfer of their embassies.

Ambassador in Lebanon Views Italian Role

AU220909 Rome ANSA in English 0840 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpts] (ANSA) — Beirut, February, 22 — The area outside the field hospital the Italian contingent of the multinational peacekeeping force donated to Lebanon this week will be rechristened "Italy Square", the new Shi'ite managers of the facility announced. The news that the square will be re-named in Italy's honor was conveyed tuesday to Italian Ambassador Franco Luccioli Ottieri, who was asked to unveil a plaque next week commemorating the donation. Luccioli Ottieri visited the hospital and reported later that the organization was efficient.

The bulk of the Italian contingent in the four-nation peacekeeping force left Beirut on Monday following a Rome Government decision to withdraw the troops. The food supplies left behind by the Italians, which are reckoned to be able to feed 1,500 people for two months, are gradually being distributed to the population by charity organizations.

The ambassador took pains to stress that Italy is still a member of the force in Lebanon, and still takes part in all the meetings of the committee coordinating the presence of allied troops, which also include American, British and French contingents. There are still 1,000 Italian soldiers attached to "operation Lebanon", Luccioli Ottieri said, adding up the 120 paratroopers remaining in Beirut, the 300 marines staying on ships off Beirut and the crews of the cruiser *"Doria"* and frigate *"Sagittario"* in Lebanese waters.

The paratroopers have set up camp at the port, the ambassador disclosed, guarding a deposit of Italian supplies next to a warehouse where French provisions are stored. "We wanted to keep an Italian presence on Lebanese soil", he added, "to protect the embassy and other Italian facilities as well as to provide an immediate Italian contingent for an eventual United Nations force, in the event the Rome Government agrees to join it".

Israeli Planes Bomb Palestinian Positions

VOL on 22 Feb Raids

NC221431 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Security reports say that Israeli warplanes bombed Palestinian positions and forces cooperating with the Palestinians in Dahr al-Baydar at 1540. The air raid lasted approximately 10 minutes and columns of smoke were seen rising from the bombed areas.

The reports say that Israeli aircraft launched another raid at about 1430 on a carpet factory in Barr Ilyas, where Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] gunmen are stationed. A big fire broke out in the bombed target.

RFL on 23 Feb Attacks

NC231121 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1111 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Israeli warplanes are continuing their bombardment of foreign gunmen's positions in the mountain area. The planes have raided the positions of the Palestinians and their associates in Mansuriyat Bhamdun, Ba'lshmayh, Btatir, and Bhamdun.

We have just received a report indicating that Israeli warplanes bombarding Palestinian positions in Mansuriyat Bhamdun, Ba'lshmayh, Btatir, and Bhamdun were confronted by ground fire [al-mudaddat al-ardiyah] and SAM's. The Israeli warplanes fired heat balloons for chaff.

Shelling Kills French Soldier in Shatila

NC222120 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] A spokesman of the French contingent tonight said that one French soldier was killed and another wounded when a shell landed on a French positions in the Shatila area at 2030 tonight.

Gunmen Attack Israeli Patrol in Sidon

NC230613 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Gunmen attacked an Israeli patrol near Az-Za'tari Mosque on Riyadh as-Sulh Street in Sidon at 0650 today. A 15-minute clash ensued. After the incident, Israeli forces surrounded the place and searched for the perpetrators. The Israeli casualties are not known because of the cordon imposed by the Israeli forces.

Meanwhile, Gunfire was heard around 0700 today in the vicinity of the Sidon Government House, where Israeli border guards are located.

IDF Arrests Imam, Amal Official; Call for Sit-in

NC221822 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] In the south, Israeli Forces stormed the Al-Villat area in the development zone in 'Ayn al-Hulwah near Sidon this morning and arrested Shaykh Yusuf Musulmani, the imam and preacher of the Al-Imam 'Ali Mosque, and his brother 'Izz ad-Din, who is an employee of Sidon municipality. They were taken to the Military Command in the Government House.

Israeli forces also arrested Muhammad Sa'd, the deputy official in charge of Amal Movement's organizational affairs in the south.

Lawyer Birri today called for a sit-in strike in the Al-Imam as-Sadiq Club and throughout Tyre tomorrow, Thursday, to denounce Sa'd's arrest. The sit-in will continue until he is released.

National Mourning Observed on Shaykh's Death

NC230758 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] National mourning will be observed today in Beirut, the south, and various Lebanese areas in response to appeals by the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, its Deputy Chairman Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, the Jabal 'Amil ulema grouping, and the Amal Movement. Preparations for the occasion have been completed in the cities and villages in the south. Mourning signs have been raised in mosques. Palm leaves, pictures of Shaykh Raghib Harb, and placards condemning the occupation have been hoisted.

Our correspondent in Sidon reports this morning that the city, including the official and private establishments, banks, and schools, have closed down.

On this occasion, a eulogy ceremony will be held at 0900 at the Al-Husayni club in Jibshit to mark the first week of the assassination of Shaykh Harb. A group of religious ulema will participate in the eulogy.

VOL Says Libyans, Palestinians Enter Al-Biqa'

NC221434 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Reports from the Al-Biqa' say that about 60 Libyan and Palestinian vehicles crossed Al-Masna' [Syrian-Lebanese border post] for Dahr al-Baydar last night.

RFL Comments on Beirut Radio 'Mischief'

NC190836 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The Amal Movement is tightening its grip on As-Sana'i' transmitter [of Beirut radio]. The programs and news broadcast by this radio contradict the policies of the legitimate authorities and side with the antigovernment forces controlling West Beirut.

The latest mischief by this radio is what it transmitted in its morning newscast today. In this newscast the radio carried an 8-minute excerpted interview with Nabih Birri in which Birri slandered the presidency and President al-Jumayyil. In the opinion of some political and diplomatic sources, such conduct necessitates stopping the transmission from the 'Amshit station in order to guarantee thatthe official radio reflects the views of only the state and the legitimate authorities.

Meetings Held With Saudi Officials on Lebanon

Khaddam Meets Saudi Prince Bandar

JN221302 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a meeting at the Foreign Ministry this morning with Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, Saudi ambassador in Washington, and [Saudi mediator] Rafiq al-Hariri. During the meeting, they completed discussion of the current Arab situation in the Lebanese arena.

'New Proposals' To Be Submitted

NC221356 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, Feb 22 (AFP) — Syria and Saudi Arabia have prepared new proposals "to stop the bloodshed" in Lebanon, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, Shaykh Bandar Ibn Sultan, said here today. Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri will be sent to Lebanon to put the proposals to the Lebanese Government, Shaykh Bandar said after a three-hour meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Further Details of Talks

JN221525 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ended his 2-day visit to Syria and left for London today to begin his official visit to the British capital. Before leaving, Prince 'Abdallah held a 1-hour meeting with Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Dr Rif'at al-Asad, Regional Command member and commander of the defense companies. Prince 'Abdallah was accorded a warm and official farewell at the airport in which Dr al-Kasm and Dr Rif'at al-Asad participated. Saudi Ambassador in Washington Prince Bandar ibn Sultan and the Saudi mediator, Rafiq al-Hariri, stayed in Damascus to meet with Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to review the current situation in Lebanon.

Rafiq al-Hariri held a telephone contact with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim to discuss some issues in order to calm the situation in Lebanon. Al-Hariri left for Beirut and is due to return to Damascus at a later time.

Observers believe that guarded optimism prevails, and that the Lebanese authority is due to respond to what was agreed upon in Damascus between President Hafiz al-Asad and Prince 'Abdallah, who appear to have defined certain positions and frameworks for the efforts of Minister Khaddam and Prince Bandar. Prince Bandar, who is always optimistic, was unusually optimistic today. Before meeting with Minister Khaddam, the prince said: I will stay in Damascus to follow the discussions that took place between Prince 'Abdallah and President al-Asad. The efforts are taking a positive course that will serve the Lebanese people and stop the bloodshed. He added: President al-Asad and His Majesty King Fahd are very concerned about preserving Lebanon. This statement was made before his meeting with Minister Khaddam which lasted for 3 hours.

Following the meeting, Prince Bandar told reporters that the meeting was positive and very good and that it concerned what had been agreed upon between President al-Asad and Prince 'Abdallah. He added: The Syrian and Saudi sides agreed to continue their efforts to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon and the tragedy that the Lebanese people are suffering. He continued: We discussed some issues and made some decisions, and then Al-Hariri left for Beirut. We hope that he will return later with good news. He also said: The only details that I can disclose are that we are determined to resolve this crisis, and I am optimistic.

Asked if he intends to meet with the National Salvation Front leaders, he said: We have no plan to meet with them in the near future, but we always welcome any meeting with all the brothers. He also announced that he met with Walid Junblatt yesterday.

Asked if any side demanded Amin al-Jumayyil's resignation, the prince said: I did not hear this from anybody. Asked about any proposal for a Syrian withdrawal, he said: This has never been a problem.

Minister Khaddam, Prince Bandar, and Rafiq al-Hariri held an important meeting that began last night and continued until 0130 today. Some observers and diplomats have sensed that optimism prevailed due to the success of Prince 'Abdallah's visit to Damascus as well as the understanding that took place between Syria and Saudi Arabia which is reminiscent of the climate that prevailed on the eve of the famous cease-fire on 25 September; a cease-fire that was announced by Minister Khaddam and Prince Bandar ibn Sultan in the presence of Rafiq al-Hariri.

This guarded optimism was the result of the statement that had been made by an official Syrian source, which described Prince 'Abdallah's visit to Damascus as brotherly; a visit during which two meetings took place between the Saudi crown prince and President al-Asad to review the Arab situation and the Lebanese situation in particular as well as this fraternal country's sufferings that resulted from the Israeli occupation, national factionalism, and the bloodshed that is threatening its unity and independence.

The official Syrian source added: The Syrian and Saudi sides' views were identical and stressed the need to halt fighting in order to enable all the concerned parties to have a national dialogue, which is the only way that will enable the Lebanese people to restore Lebanon's unity, Arabism, security, and peace in the face of the Israeli aggression.

The official Syrian source continued: Syria and Saudi Arabia agreed to continue their joint efforts to give momentum to the peace and security process and national reconciliation in order to realize the aspirations of the Lebanese people in particular and the Arab nation in general. The president also expressed his thanks to Saudi Arabia for its efforts to assist in restoring security and peace to Lebanon. Prince 'Abdallah also praised Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon.

On the other hand, diplomatic sources say that the broad lines which were recently worked out include the abrogation of the 17 May agreement by President Amin al-Jumayyil, entrusting a new prime minister to form a government of national unity, and exerting efforts to achieve a comprehensive national reconciliation through the resumption of the Geneva conference and in light of President Amin al-Jumayyil's response concerning the abrogation of the agreement and the Lebanese Arab affiliations and commitments.

Commentary Notes 'Changing Tone' In U.S. Statements

JN221600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: U.S. officials have changed theirtone regarding their statements on Lebanon, its problems, and options. Regardless of the great differences in the statements made by the spokesmen of the White House, the Departments of State and Defense, Secretary of State Shultz, and the secretary of the Navy, the contradictions in the stands and in the content of these statements are clear and tangible. Thus, the administration of former President Jimmy Carter is not the only one that issued contradictory statements, signed agreements and then violated them, and adopted conflicting stands. The administration of President Ronald Reagan is competing with the Carter administration on this matter.

After President Reagan made his haughty statements regarding his insistence on keeping the Marines in Lebanon, he adopted a decision to pull the Marines out of the smoldering Lebanese territory under pressure from the new balance of power in Lebanon, the pressure of U.S. public opinion, and the pressure of some U.S. Congressional circles. After threatening Syria with guns, warships, and the *New Jersey*, President Reagan is now happy to secure the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon before losses are inflicted on them, which would surely remind U.S. public opinion in this year of presidential elections of the defeats of the U.S. forces in Vietnam.

After making statements on the U.S. Administration's insistence on imposing a definite rule over the Lebanese people, and to practice the role of trustee over Lebanese resources, President Reagan made his aides state that they do not oppose the presence of UN forces in Lebanon. The U.S. officials are now calling for the exchange of the Multinational Forces, led by the United States, for a UN force, and for giving a role to the United Nations.

After President Reagan sent a message to President Hafiz al-Asad, which included threats and warnings; and after he received a reply from President al-Asad as strong as the message from Washington, President Reagan and his administration are now sending messages to Damascus through Arab and U.S. mediators, and through delegations including the U.S. Congressional delegation led by Senator John Tower — messages without threats and warnings, but messages which include an invitation to help the United States leave Lebanon without losing face.

As it has always asserted, Syria does not seek confrontation with the United States. Syria has never tried to tamper with the interests of U.S. national security, or to threaten its vital interests. In fact, it is the United States that came to Lebanon to interfere, to provocate, to assault, to challenge, and to harm Lebanon's national interests, the Arab nation's interests, and the interests of Syria's national and pan-Arab security.

In light of this situation, Syria's only option is to use all its potentials and all available diplomatic, political, and non-political means to defend itself and its nation, and to help the Lebanese nationalist forces. Under President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria has proven that it can utilize all available means to defend itself, its nation, and the Lebanese people with efficiency and effectiveness. In self-defense, Syria does not fear anybody, even a superpower like the United States.

It is the U.S. Administration that involved the United States in Lebanon and tried to confront Syria. The U.S. Administration is responsible for what is taking place in the Lebanese arena and in the region. Syria's principled position on Lebanon has never changed. Syria will keep on helping the fraternal Lebanese people to maintain their Arabism, freedom, independence, Arab commitments, unity, and territorial integrity so they can liberate their territory from the Israeli invaders, free themseleves from the 17 May agreement, and establish a national coalition rule which represents the Lebanese factions and forces which are concerned about the Lebanese entity's resources, the unity of the Lebanese people, their territorial integrity, and the Arab identity of Lebanon.

The United States and Israeli will leave Lebanon as colonialism left the African and Asian countries. They will not be able to change geography, history, the people, and their national unity.

Commentary Threatens West Bank 'Collaborators'

JN230315 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Palestine broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] Despite the long way Yasir 'Arafat has gone on the road to defeatism, deviation, and treason, the imperialist and Zionist circles, as well as the reactionaries who are tied to them, have always regarded him as a form without substance or a shadow of death. Now they are trying to form a Palestinian delegation to take part in Camp David from some leaders of the West Bank and Gaza who are connected to the Jordanian regime. These leaders did not commit such treason in the past because of their fear of the fangs and hands of the revolution, and because they feared that their fate would be like that of Shaykh Hashim al-Khaznadar, Yasir 'Arafat's man in Gaza, who had to sacrifice his life for congratulating As-Sadat on the Camp David accords.

However, we tell these disreputable, disrespectable personalities, who might think of responding to the Jordanian-'Arafatist-Mubarakite efforts and participate in the contract of conceding the Palestinian cause, that the bombs which explode these days in the West Bank and Gaza are a warning to those collaborators who think of following the path of treason in addition to being directed against the forces of occupation. These personalities have to sacrifice their lives for such attempts.

The men who continue the armed struggle in the West Bank and Gaza do not like their struggle to be aborted by the Jordanian regime's agents or the bribed men of 'Arafat. They want to liberate their homeland. He who plots against the homeland and its freedom will be reached by the hand of the revolution even if he is very well protected. Those who are now being contacted to form a delegation of treason and crime must consider this issue very well. They should realize that he who is thinking of conceding the Palestinian cause without being executed by the Palestinian revolution is not born yet.

Our people in the West Bank and Gaza stand as one man behind their national progressive forces, adhering to their continuous struggle, and rejecting the autonomy plot and 'Arafat's treasonous path. The resistance men in the West Bank and Gaza are alert in order to protect the cause of the people and homeland.

Ba'th Official Meets With DPRK Ambassador

JN221900 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 22 Feb (SANA) — Yi Hong-yup, DPRK ambassador in Damascus, reaffirmed his country's support for Syria's just struggle against U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and their agents in the region. This came during his meeting here today with Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, memebr of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, chairman of the solidarity committee with the Korean people, and president of the Syrian-DPRK Friendship Society.

During this meeting, the DPRK ambassador reviewed the latest developments and events in the Korean arena and the provocations of U.S. imperialism and the agent regime in South Korea against his country.

Comrade Salihah re-emphasized Syria's solidarity with and support for the Korean people's just struggle in order to unite their country peacefully and independently. He affirmed that Syria will pursue its confrontation of U.S. and Zionsit aggressive plans and ensure all the reguirements of steadfastness for all fighters in Lebanon in order to repel aggression and preserve Lebanon's sovereignty, Arabism, and independence as well as to bring about the victory of national issues, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

Statement on Egyptian-Syrian Unity Anniversary

JN221251 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 22 Feb (SANA) — The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command has stressed that the Party and Syria are now enjoying a strong and genuine spirit of renaisance through the corrective movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad. In a statement today on the anniversary of Egyptian-Syrian unity and the 23February Movement, the National Command pointed out that Arab Syria has willingly opted for its militant destiny and that Syria knows that its strugglers now are stronger and more determined to achieve victory.

The statement says: The unity between Egypt and Syria in 1958 represented the unique experience of the sound pan-Arab line and embodied the growth of the Arab masses' pan-Arab awareness. The statement added that the crime of separation was commited by the hostile imperialist-Zionist-reactionary forces and that the March revolution came in reply to the separation, disrupting its pillars and symbols and defying its foreign and domestic forces.

The statement says: The 23 February Movement in 1966 came as the solution to a stifling crisis represented by the attempts to contain the bases of struggle, weaken them, cast doubts on them, and turn these bases' struggle, sacrifices, and aspirations in favor of the rotten leaderships. The statement added that the corrective movement under President Hafiz al-Asad is the major movement tocomprehend the facts of pan-Arab struggle and the Party's strength, and that Syria has become the symbol of unity. Syria has proved the soundness of united logic, and the strength of united achievement.

The statement touched on the current situation in the Arab arena and pointed to the actions of the imperialist-Zionist- reactionary forces which created Anwar as-Sadat, Camp David, and the march of evil in more than one Arab place. These forces seek to create sedition, cause fratricide, and pave the way for the rancorous leaders in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Morocco, and Lebanon in an attempt to organize these leaders' agent and conspiratorial efforts through a Zionist-U.S. tool. The statement added that this conspiratorial link was completed by Yasir 'Arafat's deviation and treasonous acts against the Palestinian question.

The Ba'th Party National Command concluded its statement by stressing that Syria under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and through the corrective movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad, was able to safeguard the spirit and activity of the unity and the continuity and glow of the party's revolutionary genuineness.

Air Force Attacks Targets Near Bhamdun 23 Feb

TA231150 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1144 GMT 23 Feb 84

["IDF Spokesman's Announcement No 1 — 23 February 1984" — ITIM headline]

[Text] [No date or place-name given] The IDF spokesman announces that at noon today Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets in the Bhamdun area on the Beirut-Damascus highway. All our planes returned safely to their bases.

Two buildings which served as headquarters and bases for terrorists were attacked in Bhamdun, and cannon positions and a 130-mm cannon position were attacked northeast of Mansuriyah. As said, all our planes returned safely to base.

Shamir Returns From European Tour, Comments

TA230601 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has returned home from his trip to Belgium and Holland. Speaking to reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport, the prime minister said he had found understanding and support for Israel's economic goals during his talks with leaders of the European Economic Community. Shamir had expressed concern at the effect of Spain's entry to the EEC on Israel's agricultural exports. Shamir told reporters that a certain formula was being worked out with the EEC to answer Israel's request.

Shamir also denied last night that there had been any changes in Israel's military policy in Lebanon or that Israeli army patrols dispatched north of the Al-Awwali River earlier this week were designed to help Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil.

[Begin Shamir recording] I don't think there is any change in the Israli position in Lebanon and about Lebanon. Maybe these raids are helping somebody in Lebanon, but the target of these raids is to attack the PLO wherever they are. [end recording]

Arens Addresses Knesset Committee on Lebanon

TA221130 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1110 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The defense minister has said that we are operating beyond our line in Lebanon in order to prevent terrorists from making their way to the south, and that at present the terrorists are not really situated opposite us. Professor Arens, who was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, added that in most places where the Lebanese Army crumbled there was not any fighting. Our correspondent in the Knesset Gil'ad Mishori elaborates:

Reviewing the situation in Lebanon, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said: In most cases there were hardly any battles in those places where the Lebanese Army crumbled, particularly regarding the 4th Brigade. According to him, terrorists were involved in these incidents. The Druze do not accept the presence of the terrorists in those places where there is no fighting. They tell the terrorists to leave and the latter comply. However, the Druze use the terrorists during combat in various places. The Syrians, Arens said, do not appear overtly in the field. The coalition of Druze, Shi'ites, and terrorists is winning because it is united and because it has a leadership which enjoys support. The Lebanese Army, in contrast, was not united, did not have the required leadership and, in many instances, did not fight.

The defense minister justified the IDF's activities north of the Al-Awwali River by saying that if there are terrorists beyond our line, we must intervene. We are carrying out actions in order to prevent terrorists from moving toward our line and, at present, they are really not sitting opposite us. Were it not for our activity, they would be sitting there.

Referring to a solution of the problem of southern Lebanon, Arens said: There is no Cabinet position opposed to stationing UN forces in this or other places. However, we must not pretend about the efficacy of these forces. They can only be efficient in those places where all the incumbent parties agree to their presence. Wherever there is no general agreement and there is an element that does not want their presence, the problems will not be solved.

Most speakers on behalf of the opposition in the committee emphasized that it does not matter whether Syria continues to sit in Lebanon, because the main thing is the security strip.

Kohen-Orgad Presents Budget to Knesset

TA221134 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] During the next year, the government will try to come up with a flexible cost of living increment system which will prevent sharp fluctuations in salaries in real terms. The government hopes that the subject of salaries will not hurt the economic measures it has planned. Next year's budget does not attempt to forecast the expected rate of inflation. Only after some basic conditions are achieved, such as decreasing the balance of payments deficit and cutting public spending, will the conditions be set to fight inflation.

This was stated a short time ago by Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad when he presented the new budget to the Knesset plenum. The budget forecasts a decrease in real-term salaries to about the level of 2 years ago. The number of unemployed will increase, reaching about 6 and 1/2 percent. Private consumption will decrease by about 1 and 1/2 percent, and exports will increase by 8 and 1/2 percent, after a 2-year freeze. Government activity will be decreased by 7 to 10 percent, and this will be expressed in public consumption, subsidies, and social welfare activity. About 20 percent of the decrease in the government budget will be in defense; and manpower in the public services will be decreased by 8000 jobs. The finance minister says that altogether, the new budget is based on the belief that Israeli society is ready to confront what it must in order to get out of the economic crisis. If the government had not taken the steps it took at the end of last year, Israel would now have been facing a difficult problem in the field of foreign currency.

The finance minister also said that the government intends to reform its involvement in the capital market. It will release savings institutions in the markets from the need to invest in government bonds, and in this way money will be channelled to the free market. Talking about the capital market, Kohen-Orgad also said that at the end of last year, savings were withdrawn amounting to more than the amount of new investments, therefore the treasury intends to encourage savings by various means such as compensation for losses due to the index, and implementing new savings plans.

About tax policy, the finance minister said that his ministry is checking the existing system in order to simplify and decrease the tax rates. In the area of settlements Kohen-Orgad speaks about substantial cuts. The aid to settlements in the Galilee, the Golan Heights, and Judaea and Samaria will be based on their distance from centers of population. The minister did not mention the establishment of new settlements. Toward the end of his speech, the finance minister said that there are no magic solutions and no shortcuts in getting out of our economic crisis. Only our efforts and carrying the load can prevent crises.

Radio Details Defense Budget

TA221308 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] A substantial budget cut is expected in almost all spheres of security, and the strengthening of the IDF will be effected. This is reported from the studio by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal:

[Begin recording] The defense budget is characterized by cuts. The defense budget will decrease from 43 percent last year to 37 percent of the country's budget this year. The budget is 767 billion and 600 million shekels, part of this sum in local currency, and a smaller part in foreign currency. The military aid will amount to $1.4 billion, and this sum will be given as a grant. The budget assumes that the IDF will remain in Lebanon this year, too. The cost of its stay last year amounted to 50.8 billion shekels. This year a similar amount is planned, but only half the amount is accounted for in the budget, and if the IDF does indeed remain in Lebanon, the treasury would have to come up with additional allowances.

It is written in the budget book that in 1983 the military budget was increased by 25 billion shekels to finance the IDF stay in Lebanon, and a similar amount will be budgeted for the same purpose in 1984, in accordance with the length of the IDF's stay in Lebnaon. It is also written that the total amount added to finance the war was 145 billion shekels, and this addition was spread over three fiscal years, beginning in 1982. In any event, let it be noted that the IDF received about two-thirds of what it requested in 1982, and the same proportion in 1983 and 1984, to cover the cost of its stay in Lebanon, and therefore the coverage is far from being complete.

We began with cuts and we will end with cuts. It turns out that the cuts will effect the strength of the IDF, and almost all branches will be hurt. Altogether, there is great danger that the cut in the defense budget will effect the ability of the army to give Israel the same amount of security that it has become accustomed to. [end recording]

Budget Sets Settlements Freeze

TA230948 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] From the budgetary proposal for 1984, it emerges that the Government of Israel has decided on an actual freeze on building new settlements in 1984, and it intends to continue to support those in existence, in view of a redefinition of settlement objectives in 1984.

The settlement budget, as planned for 1984, is aimed at achieving the following goals: further developing the economy of the settlements established in the years 1967 to 1983; completing the establishment and the beginnings of the development and economic fleshing-out of 22 settlements established in 1983; and further preparing areas in the Jordan Rift Valley, including their cultivation.

Official Criticizes Defense Cuts

TA231007 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by Tali Zelinger]

[Text] Nobody in the security establishment remembers such a large decrease in the scope of activity as that now being called for following the defense budget cut presented in the 1984 state budget.

"It is impossible to implement such a decrease without damaging all fields," a senior security establishment official said, explaining that the full significance of the budget cut would be made clear in the course of the coming month.

It is still impossible to predict which projects will be harmed, and in the nature of things, some projects will be closed, considered to be "postponable" in the first stage — those projects whose essential need is in doubt. The security establishment hopes that the projects connected with weapons will be given priority in implementation, and the harm done to them will be less compared with the harm done to building projects, which also have an operational significance, and for which the scale of damage will be much greater.

The security establishment regards the budget cut as a necessity, as part of the national effort to get the economy on its feet. "The cost," it was said yesterday, "is a decrease in the strengthening of the IDF. The recompense, we hope, will be curbing inflation, which is damaging the security establishment and the economy in general."

Minister Moda'i Attacks Secretary of State Shultz

TA210619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] During the night, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i sharply attacked U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for blaming

Israel for foiling the arrangements in Lebanon by its withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf mountains. Appearing in Jerusalem, Yitzhaq Moda'i said this was another opportunity to inform our U.S. friends that the IDF was not the police force of Lebanon, nor the U.S. task force in that country. The IDF was working solely in accordance with Israel's interests. Moda'i said Israel should decide on the line it would hold in southern Lebanon until conditions were created in which local elements could safeguard the northern border.

Gid'on Pat Leaves for Bucharest Trade Talks 22 Feb
TA221554 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1505 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 22 Feb (ITIM) — Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat left this morning on board a "Tarrom" aircraft for Bucharest for trade talks with Romania aimed at doubling the scope of bilateral trade, and in particular increasing Israel's exports.

The talks will be held at the ministerial level and will be summed up in a trade document [protocol] between the two countries which will be signed at the conclusion of the deliberations and include agreements on arrangements for payment and due dates for the two countries.

Minister Pat will also visit Germany and Washington before returning in about 10 days.

In Romania, Minister Pat will head a delegation of industrialists and tradesmen from Israel, including representatives of international Israeli companies who will conduct talks with officials of large Romanian firms. The talks will focus primarily on ways to increase exports to Romania, and since this depends on imports from that country, the international companies will examine ways to purchase Romanian goods for marketing in other countries, not Israel.

At the request of the Romanians, the talks will be held in Bucharest this time; for many years the commerce talks were held annually in Israel. Mr Pat said that it is possible that during his visit he will meet with President Ceausescu as well, but the matter has not been finalized.

From Bucharest, the minister will leave for a 1-day conference in Hamburg, FRG, for a meeting with representatives of 120 industrial firms, commercial companies, and German investors, for a special discussion on the possibility of German commercial investments in Israel.

This meeting will be attended by 25 representatives of large Israeli companies who will try to interest the German investors in various projects.

In Washington Mr Pat will head the Israeli delegation for an additional round of talks on the establishment of a free trade zone between Israel and the United States. The talks will be held on the senior professional level, and toward their conclusion Mr Pat will confer with his U.S. colleagues — the economic secretaries in the Reagan administration — to try to wind up matters on which the experts were unable to reach an agreement.

The industry and commerce minister will return to Israel in about 10 days.

French Parliamentary Delegation Visiting
TA221821 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1810 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Giv'at Haviva, 22 Feb (ITIM) — A delegation of French parliamentarians from the Socialist faction were guests of the Jewish-Arab institution in Kibbutz Giv'at Haviva today.

The delegation members heard reports on the institutions' activities, and then continued to Barta'a, where they met with local Arabs and heard about Israeli Arabs' lifestyle.

IDF Officers Warn Druze Against 'Wild Celebrations'
TA221438 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] IDF officers warned the leaders of Druze in southern Lebanon to immediately stop the firing in the air, the processions, and the wild celebrations in the wake of their success in the battles against the Christians. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that this appeal came after dozens of excited Druze fired in the air and ran wild in the streets of the villages, thus endangering the lives of the local residents and IDF soldiers.

IDF Stop Druze Attack
TA221753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Officers from the IDF's liaison unit in Lebanon early this morning stopped a heavy Druze shelling attack on Christian villages extremely close to the Al-Awwali line. In the eastern sector, the Druze were also told in no uncertain terms that the IDF will take a very grave view of any attempt to arouse internecine tension in the south. Here is a report by Hayim Hecht:

[Begin recording] The Druze bombardment began suddenly and continued 3 hours nonstop. From their positions on the southwestern slopes of the Ash-Shuf Mountains, the Druze artillery shelled villages only 3 km away from the IDF's deployment line along the Al-Awwali River. Wadi az-Zaynah and Ar-Rumaylah which are located on the coastal road, absorbed dozens of shells which caused heavy damage and sent the remaining local inhabitants fleeing to their cars, the direction naturally being southern Lebanon.

Since the beginning of the week, the Druze have been engaged in frantic fortification work in the new positions they captured. Last night's fire may have been intended to make it clear to the Christian Phalangists and the Lebanese Army that any attempt at a counteroffensive would from now on also encounter an artillery blockade. The fire, which as we have said, reached distances not very far from our forces' lines, put yet another strain on and tested once again the understanding between Israel and the Druze. Using all sorts of communications lines, the IDF liaison officers transmitted an unequivocal message, namely: The shelling contravenes the agreements with us; halt your fire. The Druze rushed to explain that the fire is not directed at us, and promptly held their fire.

Once again the IDF's influence was proved in Lebanon, and yet again the Druze readiness to maintain open channels of communications with us has been demonstrated, but at the same time it is obvious now that this tiny show is insufficient: The Druze have not been satisfied and are now making substantial efforts to push the Christians away from the Al-Kharrub region as well. The red light, as far as we are concerned, in this whole affair is that it may very well be that the progress southwestward is nothing but the Druze repaying the terrorists for the help they had extended in the conquest of the Ash-Shuf. The Al-Kharrub region, where the Lebanese Communist Party enjoys great influence, could serve as an ideal organizational base for the terrorist organizations very near the IDF's deployment line. [end recording]

HA'ARETZ: Syrian Druze Fighting in Lebanon

TA230856 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Feb 84 p 2

[Report by 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] Druze who came specially from Syria to fight beside their brethren are fighting in the Ash-Shuf mountains. *AL-HUDA*, the Druze monthly appearing in Israel, has come out with this exposure.

An Israeli Druze who spent some time in the Ash-Shuf area reports that the Druze fighters have large quantities of weapons, and there is no shortage of food in the area. According to him, the Druze want Israeli aid shipments of warm clothing. The first shipment that left Israel, according to him, reached only "certain groups."

The speaker commented that Syrian Druze revealed to him that Syria is keeping a watch over the Druze situation in Israel, and the Syrian Druze have organized contributions to help the Druze in Lebanon and absorbed thousands of refugees in the Druze hills. He says that in the Hassbayya area there is a split between the Druze who are Junblatt's personnel and those in the National Guard. The Guard members confiscated a shipment of food that had been sent to the Ash-Shuf mountains from Israel.

New Syrian Tactics at Lebanon 'Red Line' Noted

TA211349 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
21 Feb 84 p 1,11

[Report by Shayah Segal]

[Excerpt] "In the last few days the Syrians have been playing with us. They approach the 'red line' and then go back. They are trying to test our alertness and to see how we will react. The Syrians, however, see that it is hard to play games with us because we detect them immediately."

This was said by Captain Shay, commander of an IDF frontline position near As-Sultan Ya'qub in Lebanon's eastern sector.

Indeed it appears that lately the Syrians have developed a new type of game. As soon as darkness falls, they start moving their soldiers a few hundred meters closer to IDF positions; they approach the implicitly agreed upon 'red line' separating the two forces but before crossing that line, they go back.

The Syrians, as we and they both know, can see when and how our forces are preparing themselves in the event they cross the 'red line;' however, at the last minute, they retreat to their positions.

During the night there is a high level of activity at IDF positions. There is a sort of implicit understanding between us and the Syrians that the IDF can act against the terrorists.

Editorials, Commentary on Lebanon, PLO, U.S.

Morning Press 22 Feb

TA220901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] *HATZOFE* writes that the reports from Washington about the United States wanting to renew the autonomy talks with the participation of Palestinian representatives, without checking if they are PLO people, cause concern about U.S. plans for the continuation of the political process in the Middle East. It is possible that the renewed activity is meant to add to the prestige of the U.S. President, who needs achievements in an election year, and that the practical results of this activity will not be felt in the near future. However, Israel must launch a political and information campaign in the United States, in Congress, and among the Jewish population in order to show things as they really are, and in order to uncover the real motives of the U.S. activity, which deviate from the Camp David accords and which hurt important Israeli interests.

THE JERUSALEM POST writes that Israel's official stand, as enunciated by the late Moshe Dayan as foreign minister, is that only known PLO operatives will be excluded. This is liberal enough a criterion to be acceptable to Jordan, and it should certainly be acceptable to Egypt. In any case, the Camp David terms do not permit Egypt to refuse a solo role in the autonomy discussions even if Jordan declines to participate. The sincerity of Mr Mubarak's professions of devotion to the cause of peace will be shown by his pursuing the path outlined at Camp David and in the peace treaty, without being deflected by considerations of popularity in the Arab and Muslim world.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that the PLO, which adheres to the path of terror and is faithful to the Palestinian charter, cannot be accepted as a partner for negotiations. There is nothing to talk about with the PLO on this basis. However, if among the Palestinians a change occurs in the direction of realistic thought, we must welcome this and encourage every meeting and contact which encourages this tendency. Naturally, this is not how the Likud government sees things, since its main fear is that there

will be someone to talk to, for in that case it would be necessary to forget the dream of annexation and fulfill the Camp David accords which Mr Begin himself signed. And who in the Likud today thinks about recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people?

DAVAR writes that a large majority of the population of Israel and their political representatives agree that the IDF cannot withdraw completely from Lebanon without security measures that would prevent attacks on Israel's northern settlements. But this does not call for large forces in Lebanon, and it is no coincidence that almost all the former chiefs of staff believe that for this mission fewer IDF units than are currently deployed in Lebanon are enough, and their deployment does not have to be as deep as it is. The maintenance of a large IDF force which is broadly deployed is a wrong concept; and to speak in an understatement, this concept is probably the offspring of the concept that brought us all the way to Beirut.

Midday Press 22 Feb

TA220950 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* thinks that the government is right in trying to prevent the terrorists from establishing themselves in Beirut. The newspaper thinks that the Defense Ministry and the IDF should be complimented for not surrendering to "street propaganda," as *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* puts it, and doing what they felt was right.

MA'ARIV wonders that Israel denied reports from Lebanon about the activity of the IDF there. It is true that the Christian reports were exaggerated, but the Israeli denials were also not true. The newspaper asks why the public at home should not know that we maintain our presence and power north of the Al-Awwali, when Israel tried to explain to the Druze that they had better get rid of the terrorists.

MA'ARIV's Moshe Zaq

TA220939 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Feb 84 p 8

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Blinding Light at the End of the Tunnel"]

[Text] "The light we are seeing at the end of the tunnel may be that of a train coming our way" — this is the analogy George Shultz used this week when asked whether he could see light at the end of the Lebanese tunnel.

It seems there is no better definition to the alternatives now being raised by certain officials in Washington, who want to console themselves over the "Lebanese failures" with the "Palestinian solutions."

These officials always come up with the files containing the Palestinian solutions: There is a crisis in Iran — they propose talks with the PLO; there are difficulties in Saudi Arabia — they produce the moldy files with the interpretation of Resolution 242 that implies the PLO's indirect recognition of Israel's existence; Mubarak has difficulties paying his debts and even servicing interest payments on loans — they pull out the file about the autonomy talks; when Husayn is apprehensive about Hafiz al-Asad's strenghtening — they reopen the file about settlements in Judaea and Samaria, as if a freeze on their establishment could ensure the Jordanian king against the Syrian ruler's pressure.

These remedies are not new. The frustration the authors of these plans feel because their "brilliant" ideas are not given sufficient attention compels them to seize any crisis to market and push their goods which, under the present circumstances, are predestined to flop.

The lights on "the Palestinian train" which is running in the opposite direction of the Israeli-U.S. understanding, might only blind the U.S. Administration rather than pull it out of its current distress.

The Lebanese maze has not improved the chances of the illusionists in Washington regarding the establishment of a "Palestinian representation" acceptable to the PLO to conduct negotiations on autonomy.

At this stage, Hafiz al-Asad's status has not weakened but rather strengthened. It is highly unlikely that the PLO, which for the most part is now being controlled by Syria, should give its blessing to any "Palestinian representation" to conduct negotiations based on the Camp David accords.

One of the reasons why Hafiz al-Asad hardened his position in the negotiations with the Americans since his Army was expelled from Beirut on 1 September 1982, was his firm opposition to the "Reagan plan." He regarded it as an attempt to isolate Syria in the Arab world.

Now that Damascus is imposing its decisions on the Lebanese leaders, and the fighting section of the PLO is under its control, it is unlikely that many Arabs in Judaea and Samaria or in the Palestinian diaspora will agree to come out against Al-Asad's policy. Even Husayn will hesitate, even though deep in his heart he wants to see the Syrian ruler weakened.

Wise and experienced officials in Washington are not likely to be tempted by these illusory searches for a "Palestinian representation" which would be "closer" to the PLO but removed from its opinions, which would be free to conduct negotiations and, at the same time, would be entangled in the ropes of the growing Syrian influence.

Therefore, the alarms we are sounding now to caution against imaginary moves of the U.S. Administration on the Palestinian issue make no sense.

If the reference is merely to representatives of the Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria who would be included in the Egyptian-Jordanian delegation, then this is in line with the Camp David accords and does not constitute "a new initiative." However, if some frustrated U.S. officials attempt to establish "contact" with sponsors of the PLO, they would be breaching a promise given to Israel in two memoranda of understanding to the effect that the United States would not hold contacts with the PLO as long as this organization does not agree to live in peace with Israel within secure and recognized borders. These U.S. sponsors will try to justify themselves by saying that various — albeit uninvited — Israeli sponsors have been holding talks with PLO members, but this will not alter the fact that the promises would have been breached. Nevertheless, there is no sense in starting a public argument on this question with the Reagan administration because the only one who would profit from such an argument is the PLO, which does not want to come across to U.S. public opinion as "disgusting terrorists" but as an element with which political contacts are held.

Clarifications on the diplomatic level with the U.S. Government about its abiding by the memoranda of understanding are desirable, but a public argument is unnecessary.

The joint disappointment suffered by Israel and the United States due to the crash in Lebanon need not necessarily lead to the collapse of the Israeli-U.S. understanding, an understanding which was consolidated amid joint efforts to curb Syrian expansion in Lebanon.

This understanding is based on mutual trust between Israel and the United States, and on mutual recognition of the interests of the other side. A public argument over differences of opinion, albeit imaginary, might tarnish this understanding and, what is more serious, it might erode its image, which is also an important political asset for Israel.

Public opposition to the Reagan plan was necessary, not because this plan had a chance to succeed but because it included an **immediate operative demand to freeze settlements.**

However, now that we are faced with these "windmills" of the Saudi "eight-point plan," Mubarak's public announcement to Reagan on the Palestinian issue, the talk about "a new initiative" regarding the composition of the Palestinian representation to the negotiations, and the "secret contacts" with PLO members, we get caught in the trap and begin fighting these "windmills" and fanning a public argument.

The truth is that all these plans are trying to revive the dead. They cannot pull the Reagan administration out of its misery, and they cannot remedy Lebanon's distress.

However, if we were to summon all our strength to launch a campaign for a public argument with Secretary of State Shultz to prove to him that we do not have policing roles in Lebanon, and that there is no affinity of interests between us, we could very well persuade the administration to entertain illusions about the light on the train coming its way.

Then we would not be the only ones to lose; the Reagan Administration would lose too. Then all the barriers which could restrain Syria in its drive through the tunnel in the opposite direction would be shattered. Such a crush could also wound Mubarak and Husayn.

HA'ARETZ's 'Uzi Benziman

TA211406 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Feb 84 p 9

[Commentary by U.S. correspondent 'Uzi Benziman: "Only in America"]

[Text] — When the President insists on having a 5-day vacation despite the fact that his policy in Lebanon is crumbling down like a house of cards — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the President schedules a special ceremony to immortalize the occasion on which he signed the order for the Marines to withdraw from Beirut, thus demonstrating the absolute failure of his policy — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the President argues that the U.S. Army improved the level of the Lebanese Army, this being the reason why it was defeated by its enemies — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the President's chief adviser for national security argues that the Lebanese Army's level of competence was good and that it was not defeated in battle because of this but rather because of the large number of desertions from its ranks — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When after continuous days of fighting in the Beirut area during which hundreds of people were killed, the vice president claims that the presence of the Marines saved innumerable human lives — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the national security adviser argues that the absolute U.S. defeat in Lebanon only attests to the seriousness of the Palestinian problem and makes the United States the only one capable of solving it — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the President who ordered the 6th Fleet to indiscriminately bombard areas in the Beirut region denounces (Israeli) air raids on the civilian center of the city (18 months ago) — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the President warns that the 6th Fleet will open fire to support Al-Jumayyil's government but the fleet stops the bombings after 2 days despite the fact that the situation of the Lebanese Government is deteriorating — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the President's spokesman says that the United States will under no circumstances whatsoever heed the demand to remove the 6th Fleet from the Beirut coast and, 2 days later, the vice president hints that the 6th Fleet will leave in order to go back to its routine preceding the Lebanese war — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the President's national security adviser speaks with a positive undertone about the presence of Palestinian terrorists in the Beirut area (regarding their ability to defend the Palestinian refugee camps) at a time when the State Department's spokesman expressed concern about such a development — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When Pentagon officials proudly leak that the "*New Jersey*" has severly hit the Syrian alignment in Lebanon and, 1 week later, they leak serious doubts about the credibility of these reports — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the U.S. Army says that its training efforts and the equipment it sent to the Lebanese Army have proved successful and later it rationalizes its failure by saying that the training was not meant to enable the Lebanese Army to protect itself against its Muslim rivals but rather to perform in a state of national reconciliation in Lebanon — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in Lebanon.

— When the administration quotes Egypt and Jordan as having cautioned that the pullout of the Marines from Lebanon will cause the U.S. investment in the Middle East to be lost and, after it decides to pull them out, the administration claims that the visit of Mubarak and Husayn to Washington proves the effectiveness of U.S. influence in the region — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the White House spokesman says that the Lebanese Army which was trained by U.S. officers has definitely improved its level of performance but that the United States will nevertheless not put off [as published] improving the combat ability of the Muslim militia — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When a long line of spokesmen of various branches of the administration give controversial descriptions of the purpose of the 6th Fleet's bombardments in the Beirut area (to protect U.S. installations and personnel/to defend the Lebanese Army/to defend the Al-Jumayyil regime/to paralyze the Syrian fire) — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When during breakfast the President says that the United States does not care whether the Israeli-Lebanese agreement is or is not abrogated and, 4 hours later, the secretary of state issues a special warning against abrogating the agreement — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When a very senior official at the White House says that progress has been made in Lebanon thanks to the U.S. policy to the effect that the PLO has left that country, Israel's security on its northern border has improved, and a chance has been created for the establishment of a broadly-based government in Lebanon and, 1 day later, it emerges that over 1,000 PLO members have returned to Beirut, that Israel intends to hold onto a strip of territory in southern Lebanon for a long time because it does not trust other arrangements which were, as it were, brought about by the presnece of the Marines and that the Muslim factions in Lebanon do not intend at all to join the government headed by Al-Jumayyil — one should notbe surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When in light of the humiliation Syria inflicted on the United States in Lebanon a senior White House official claims that Syria also thinks that the United States is a vital element for promoting the peace process in the Middle East — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When various administration spokesmen give controversial reports about the date of the departure of the Marines (within 4 months/1 month/2 to 3 days) — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the secretary of defense says that the Marines can leave the ships and return to the coast whereas the vice president hints that the 6th Fleet and the Marines will soon leave the Beirut coast — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

— When the White House spokesman gives in the same breadth controversial explanations about the role of the Marines after they board the ships (to ensure the stability of the Al-Jumayyil regime/to give breathing room for the Al-Jumayyil government to psychologically influence events in Beirut/to fulfill the classical role of Marines stationed aboard landing craft) — one should not be surprised, this is how things are in America.

Jerusalem Arabic on Jordanian Embassy Incident

JN222315 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 22 Feb 84

["Observation" by Sadduq Ben Me'ir]

[Text] Dear listeners, the Jordanian Government is very angry with the attempt to burn the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli, with the ambassador and staff inside, by Libyan intelligence in cooperation with Palestinian elements. Jordanian papers waged fierce campaigns against Al-Qadhdhafi's regime and practices. The Senate the day before yesterday, and the House of Representatives today, held private sessions to discuss this incident amid explanations of the course of events in the arson incident.

Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat promised to adopt the necessary measures regarding this incident. In fact, recent reports said that Jordan had summoned its Ambassador Sami ash-Shamayilah from Tripoli and that it might sever its diplomatic relations with Libya.

Setting embassies on fire in Libya is not new. The destruction of the Jordanian Embassy was preceded by the burning or robbing of other foreign embassies there, such as the U.S. and French Embassies. This is in addition to humiliating members of the diplomatic corps. The Libyan authorities usually claim innocence and attribute such terrorist acts to the Libyan people who have lost self-control regarding the victim diplomats.

The burning of the Jordanian Embassy carries with it ill-omened signs concerning Jordan. All indications refer to coordination and collaboration between Libyan and Syrian intelligence through the alliance of the two countries. King Husayn previously accused Syria of the assassination incidents that took place against Jordanian diplomats and security men in Rome, New Delhi, and Athens. Syrian and Libyan intelligence organs both carry out terrorist acts, separately, and at certain times. The terrorists in these organs work actively against the opponents of the two regimes abroad and inside the two countries. There are numerous examples of these acts.

However, the recent terrorist incident in Tripoli has far-reaching implications. All indications are that Al-Qadhdhafi resorted to this incident because of King Husayn's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Washington on the one hand, and his meeting with Mubarak and Reagan on the other in which they discussed the means to find a solution to the Middle East conflict, including the Palestine question.

This incident was intended to warn King Husayn against his coming meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, in which they will both seek an equation to solve the Palestine question and to obtain an authorization to have Jordan represent the Palestinians in any talks or negotiations concerning this equation. Naturally, this warning is directed to 'Arafat as much as it is directed to Husayn. It is certain that Al-Asad and Al-Qadhdhafi have a mutual understanding and are working together for personal interests and purposes in order to prevent Husayn, 'Arafat, and Mubarak from reaching results that they consider positive.

We must point out that these developments were followed, either intentionally or unintentionally, by a U.S. remark that has deep significance. Robert McFarlane, the U.S. President's advisor for national security affairs, stated that the United States will use force to protect King Husayn if he is subjected to danger resulting from his possible readiness to join negotiations with Israel. He said that U.S. policy in the Middle East will center on encouraging negotiations in which Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians will participate — provided that an Arab country represents the Palestinians.

Husayn's decision pertaining to the Syrian-Libyan challenge is not yet known. On his part, Yasir 'Arafat said yesterday that he will not close the door on dialogue with Jordan. King Husayn wants to obtain an authorization from the PLO and the Arab states prior to joining negotiations with Israel — as he told the Americans during his recent visit to Washington.

There remains one remark concerning the behavior of Jordanian officials and the Jordanian news media. When a terrorist act is carried out against Jordan, the Jordanian media officials create a big commotion; but when a criminal and terrorist act is carried out against Israel, they praise it and wrap it with heroic images. By such behavior, these officials ignore the fact that terrorism is indivisible and cannot be received with two contradictory attitudes or reactions.

Shops Closed in Gaza Following Incident

TA221114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The security forces today closed five shops in the main street of Gaza following yesterday's incident in which a hand grenade was hurled at an Israeli vehicle. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that following the request of merchants not to harm their business, the civilian administration in the Gaza District decided to close the shops for only 48 hours.

Daylight Saving Time To Be Implemented in May

TA221829 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The interior minister has decided that from the beginning of May until the end of August all clocks will be turned back 1 hour. Israel, thus, will have daylight saving time.

Briefs

Emigration Decreases — The number of those emigrating from Israel in 1983, figured by the difference between those entering and exiting Israel, was only 2,600. This number was published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, and it is one of the lowest since the establishment of Israel. According to the figures issued by the bureau, there was an increase in the number of people returning to Israel; during 1983 about 15,300 people who were abroad for at least 2 years returned. This figure is larger by about 35 percent than the figure for 1982, which stood at 11,350. [Excerpts] [Tel Aviv *'AL HAMISHMAR* in Hebrew 17 Feb 84 p 3 TA]

PANA Director General Submits Progress Report

AB221814 Dakar PANA in English 1651 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Dakar 22 Feb (PANA) — Mr Cheick Ousmane Diallo, the director general of the PAN AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, presented Tuesday, in Dakar, a progress report on the activities of his organization for the past two years (1982-1984), and outlined the major orientations of his programme of action for 1984-1986.

Presenting his report to the 3d ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Council of PANA, Mr Diallo said financial problems constitute at present one of the factors slowing down the development of our activities. He said some member states do not pay at all and others not on time their contributions which constitute the only source of finance for the agency.

The director general pointed to this situation as hampering his effort to recruit personnel of high calibre as well as implementing telecommunications programmes which are essential for a continental agency of the dimension of PANA, and for competition in the international news market.

PANA, he affirmed, can only operate on simply provisional basis by constituting a task force as an immediate answer to the ardent and urgent desire of African countries to communicate directly between themselves without intermediaries.

According to the report of the director general, inspite of these problems, progress was made in a number of sectors: ten more countries have adhered to PANA's membership, bringing to 28 the number of countries which have subscribed to the provisions of the convention establishing the agency.

Headquarters agreements, according to the director general's report, will soon be concluded between PANA and Senegal (host country of PANA headquarters) and between PANA, Zaire, and Sudan, which respectively host the Central and East African regional pool headquarters in Kinshasa and Khartoum. Consultations are underway for the conclusion of similar agreements with Zambia, Libya, and Nigeria, which respectively host the regional pool headquarters of the agency in Lusaka, Tripoli, and Lagos, according to the report.

Although there is still the need for PANA to maximize the performance of its telecommunications network, its 8 hours daily transmissions (10.00 - 18.00 hours GMT) from the Dakar transmission centre since the 1st of December last year, have been received by a good number of national news agencies, the report said. For some 20 national news agencies without adequate reception facilities, UNESCO will between now and 1985 provide equipment to enable them to receive PANA's news services.

Participation by national news agencies in PANA's news services continues to increase: thirty agencies participate in its services which transmitted 25,000 words, about 100 stories, on February 14.

The director general of PANA however pointed out that although this development is encouraging, we must avoid making hasty conclusions, but rather leave time to confirm that member news agencies will continue to maintain this rhythm once the enthusiasm which heralded the launching of the agency's news services has subsided.

With regard to news content, news exchanged between African countries was largely dominated by inter-African news.

The director general said that for PANA to successfully implement its first phase programme by the end of 25 May 1986, it should be provided with the relevant instruments to protect it from interference which is detrimental to its operations. Also, existing structures must be strengthened and new ones created.

He expressed his determination to effectively administer the 35 million dollar budget proposed for the 1984-1985 biennium by exerting efforts at the same time toward recovering contribution arrears and upgrading the Dakar transmission centre whose transmission hours will be adapted to those of national news agencies. The director general also plans to recruit competent news staff whose productions will meet the expectations of Africa.

With regard to cooperation, Mr Diallo said PANA would strengthen or establish links with international organisations with similar objectives and Third World news agencies for a wider circulation of information between developing countries. PANA, he said, would continue to play its role of advisory agency for some member states.

The director general also proposed the establishment within PANA of a section responsible for the promotion of solidarity and African unity. This section will be entrusted with reactivating, promoting, and developing the ideals of Pan-Africanism which is losing ground because of the resurgence of aggression...and the rise of nationalism.

The Intergovernmental Council, which began its session on Monday, will examine until Thursday various questions regarding the past accomplishments and the future perspectives of PANA.

UPAT Head Holds Talks in Gambia, Guinea-Bissau

AB202105 Dakar PANA in French 1721 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Bissau, 20 Feb (UNAFTEL/PANA) — Mamadou Bobo Camara, secretary general of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union, UPAT, has concluded an 8-day tour that took him to Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. In the Gambian capital, Banjul, where he visited from 10 to 15 February, the UPAT secretary general was received by Lamin Kiti Jabang, minister of external affairs, and Lamin Borra M'boge, minister of public works and communications. In Bissau, the Guinea-Bissau capital, where he visited from 16 to 17 February, the UPAT secretary general also held talks with Dr Fidelis Cabral de Almada, Guinean minister of foreign affairs, who represented the Guinean secretary of state for posts and telecommunications who had other engagements. In addition, the UPAT secretary general held talks with the directors general of posts and telecommunications of both countries, as well as top civil servants of various ministries on the problems of telecommunications.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Receives Saudi Envoy, Fahd Message

LD212016 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] This afternoon, President Chadli Bendjedid received a special Saudi envoy, Shaykh 'Ali ibn Husayn al-Musallam, who gave him a message from King Fahd.

Mr Abdelkader Benkaci, head of the mission to the presidency, and the Saudi ambassador to Algeria were present at the meeting.

LIBYA

JANA: 12 Sudanese Government Troops Killed

LD231109 Tripoli JANA in English 0901 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, Jamada al Ulla 19, Feb 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The revolution fighters in the south of Sudan killed 12 soldiers of the government forces in the Upper Nile region.

Major Muhammad Mustafa, military commander of the Upper Nile told local papers that the 12 people were killed when a land mine went off under their [words indistinct]. According to the official version, the operation was carried out on 6 February. Major Mustafa added that this operation was carried out by fighters belonging to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

JANA: Secret U.S.-Egypt-Sudan Meetings Held

LD221702 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, Jumada al Ulla 18, Feb 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Recently, a secret meeting took place in Khartoum between Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egypt's defence minister; the U.S. Air Force commander; and the deputy director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for African affairs. This meeting was preceded by many others at various stages.

Hireling Numayri and 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah met and (?discussed) the situation on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border and Ethiopia's alleged role in supporting the Sudanese opposition in the south. They also discussed the siege by the Sudanese opposition forces of 600 Sudanese soldiers in the eastern region of Sudan.

During the meeting, hireling Numayri asked for Egyptian military support in the form of Egyptian forces to be sent to the southern region. Abu Ghazalah has agreed on the intervention of Egyptian forces for the defence of the main cities in Sudan, and to move south to face the opposition forces. It was also agreed between both sides that the Egyptian airforce would intervene and be based at Wadi Sidna base, north of Khartoum, to take part in any possible operation.

This meeting was followed by another between General Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first deputy to hireling Numayri, and head of the High Committee of National Security and the deputy director of U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for East African affairs. During this meeting, discussions centered on the operation to stir up confrontation with Ethiopia. The implementation of this operation was worked out during the meeting.

Meanwhile, another meeting took place between hireling Numayri and General at-Tayyib, Marshal Abu Ghazalah and the commander of the U.S. Air Force, and the deputy director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for East African affairs. During this meeting, it was decided that the U.S. will send some fighter planes fully equipped until the military base in east Sudan is ready. This base is to be delivered during this month and will be operational next April. It was also decided that surface to surface and surface to air missile launchers will be set up in the Sannar region east of Sudan. It was also decided during the meeting to form a coordinating military committee including members from Sudan, Egypt and the U.S.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech Scores U.S. 'Intimidation'

LD221313 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli 21 Feb (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution this morning met the participants in the first revolutionary meeting of Al-Fatih arms [sawa'id] being held at the Ideological Training Center in Tripoli under the slogan of Al-Fatih arms: "New Blood for the Revolutionary Committees Movement."

The brother leader spoke during this meeting. He said: This rising new generation must actually be a generation of anger from the start, and must shoulder its responsibility, create for itself a new creature and sever its link with the current generation of submission, the generation of exploitation and the generation of tyranny which exploits others, is pleased by exploiting others and accepts tyranny from others.

The leader explained that this generation and those that preceeded it are prepared to accept the exploitation of others and the tyranny of others. Severing the link with the generation of exploitation and tyranny does not mean breaking off the link with the glorious past, and the immortal heritage and supreme ideals. These we must inherit from them and must not waste. This also means that we must not belittle the past generation and all these values, but we must get rid of all the existing superstitions and fairy tales left to this generation by the Ottomans, Italian colonialism and the defunct monarchy, in order to submit to authority and colonialism.

The brother leader, addressing the participants at the meeting, said: If you are a generation of anger against all that is happening now, you must get free, break away and get rid of all these superstitions, and break all these shackles and free yourselves in order to be able to free your nation and land.

The leader of the revolution affirmed the determination to build a new revolutionary movement which will be historically free, and will decide the battle on the international level, not only on the Libyan or Arab level. He explained that the building process of this movement must start from the elementary and secondary stages where the vestiges of the past — selfishness and egotism — have to be eliminated.

The brother leader of the revolution, addressing the participants at this meeting, went on to add: You are the new generation which must not fear America, or Israel, or the atomic bomb. If this angry generation shows that it is not afraid of these things for any reason then it will inflict defeat on the enemy and on America.

He stressed that the liberation of man from within constitutes a mighty power that does not know fear. In this respect, he specifically pointed out that when people who did not know fear appeared in Lebanon, the forces of NATO were forced to flee, forces for whom the *New Jersey* and the thousands of soldiers were of no use. This happened previously in Vietnam when the Vietnamese people forged ahead and scored a victory against the American forces.

The brother leader of the revolution also stressed that this generation must get rid of the complex of fearing America because they have a right on Earth (?without which) there is only death, and they must not worry about what America does and about its fleets. We are people with a right. America comes to our homes and lands, spoiling our living for us and wanting us to live every day under the intimidation of the American fleet and American aircraft, while the Israelis are expanding and destroying our homes and land daily.

He stressed that all this must arouse anger within us and lead us to destroy the ships of the American fleet by any means. He explained that no one could achieve this other than a fearless angry generation.

MAURITANIA

Senegal Envoy Brings Message to Haydala

AB221025 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, this morning received in audience a Senegalese envoy, Mrs Diop, minister of emigration, who brought a message from President Abdou Diouf to the head of state.

After the audience, which was attended by Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Deh, minister of health and labor, and Ane Amidou, technical adviser at the Senegalese Ministry of Emigration, Mrs Diop made the following statement to our colleague Amar Ould Waliou:

[Begin Diop recording] First of all, I have to say that I have been honored by the president of the republic who has instructed me to come and deliver this message to Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, president of the Republic of Mauritania, his friend and brother. The message is related to the excellent relations between our two countries. I delivered the message to the president of the republic and invited the government to attend an international conference that we will organize in Dakar, which is related to migrant workers of the Senegal River valley. [end recording]

Mrs Diop leaves Nouakchott tomorrow afternoon. She arrived in Nouakchott yesterday and was welcomed by the minister of health and labor.

Foreign Minister Departs for Meeting in Paris

AB211624 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Major Ahmed Ould Minnih, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, this morning left Nouachott for Paris. He will lead the Mauritanian delegation at the meeting of the French-Mauritanian joint commission to be held on 23 and 24 February 1984, in the French capital.

Two New Ministerial Appointments Reported

AB200945 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] A communique issued yesterday afternoon by the Military Committee of National Salvation [CMSN] announces that the chairman of the CMSN and head of state has, at the request of the prime minister, made the following appointments:

The minister of justice and Islamic orientation will be Colonel Cheikh Ould Boyda, and the minister of culture, youth, and sports will be Mr Diabira Maroufa.

MOROCCO

AL-'ALAM Lauds Soviet Stand on Sahara

PM171625 Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 10 Feb 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Soviet Support, Western Sahara, and Morocco: Well Placed Support"]

[Text] There was nothing new in the statement issued after brother struggler Hachemi Felali received Malik Sazilov, the new Soviet ambassador. However, the reassertion of the friendly Soviet attitude toward Morocco's vital issues is worth noting.

The meeting took place on the occasion of the invitation extended to Brother Hachemi Felali in his capacity as minister of religious endowments and Islamic affairs, as well as a distinguished political personality in public life, to visit the Soviet Union. During the friendly talks at the meeting, several points worthy of note were reaffirmed:

The friendly relations linking the Soviet Union and Morocco;
The Soviet leadership's appreciation of the role of his majesty the king as chairman of the Committee on Jerusalem and chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and;
The reassertion by the Soviet Union of its support for the solution of the Sahara problem by peaceful means, in accordance with the OAU and UN resolutions.

All this appeals to Moroccan public opinion, and its importance stems from the position the Soviet Union occupies in international politics. There is no doubt that national public opinion has welcomed this positive attitude of the Soviet Union toward the question of the integrity of Moroccan national soil. It is also a source of great pleasure to us that the constructive and responsible attitude Morocco adopts toward the tension in the area is appreciated and commended by the world community. This was evident in the unanimous support by all the friendly countries for Morocco's initiative in Nairobi, which aimed at ending the Algerian-Moroccan tension in order to stop bloodshed and preserve the brotherhood.

At the time, the Soviet Government expressed its support for the Nairobi initiative and affirmed its desire to find a peaceful settlement to the Moroccan-Algerian dispute in accordance with the OAU resolution regarding the referendum — which was a Moroccan decision in the first place, intended, as we said, to establish peace and preserve the future.

This development in the atttitude of many African and other states with regard to a vital issue concerning Morocco is a significant political event. It shows that many people in Africa and the world have finally realized the depth of the problem known as the Sahara problem. They have also realized the truth about the attitude of Morocco, which is defending its right to complete its territorial integrity within the framework of international law and of serving peace and cooperation.

When the Soviet Union supports Morocco's territorial integrity, it is being logical with itself, with what is right, and with history. Articles written by Lenin in newspapers when he was a journalist and a distinguished political leader early this century say that when colonialism attacked Morocco by occupying and dividing it, it attacked a fully sovereign state which consisted of parts in the east, the north and the south, which are an integral part of its territory. Lenin specifically mentioned Sagia al-Hamra and Rio de Oro as part of the Moroccan Kingdom which French, Spanish, and international colonialism attacked.

At the United Nations, Morocco — since it joined the world community in 1956 — has always enjoyed the support of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc countries. The Soviet Union promoted Morocco's territorial claims within its endeavors to liquidate colonialism. The UN minutes bear witness to abiding Soviet support for Morocco, particularly with regard to the Western Sahara issue.

Jacob Malik's attitude at the Security Council in November 1974 was odd, and contrary to principled Soviet stands. It was a wrong stand, similar to that which Khrushchev adopted in 1963 when another Algerian-Moroccan war broke out, again because of Algerian expansionist designs.

When the Soviet Union shows logic and reason and supports Morocco's restoration of its territorial integrity, such an attitude is received with satisfaction by the Moroccans, who have always been astonished by the Soviet Union's coolness toward them and the confusion the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc countries have shown during votes on the Sahara problem at the United Nations. The cause of this astonishment is that Morocco's stand on the Sahara is fair and in harmony with international law, aims to preserve peace, and seeks to find a peaceful political solution to the present tension.

SUDAN

Forty Said Killed in Ethiopian Hijacking

JN201140 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, 20 Feb (SUNA) — Reports indicate that at least 40 people were killed when an Ethiopian military aircraft exploded last Thursday after having been hijacked by an Ethiopian Air Force officer. The officer was a first lieutenant seeking asylum in Somalia.

Diplomatic sources in the Ethiopian capital report that the aircraft exploded when it was about to land at a main air base near the capital. On board the aircraft were approximately 40 people, including seven Ethiopian Air Force officers.

The reports said the hijacker — who had asked to go to Somalia — had already removed the safety pin from a handgrenade when he discovered that the plane would be landing at the main Ethiopian base. A member of the aircraft crew fired at the hijacker, causing the grenade and aircraft to explode.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Essebsi Interviewed by KUNA

LD211518 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1317 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Tunis, 21 Feb — Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi today accused the Arab countries of "a great dereliction" with regard to Africa. He affirmed that "nothing but an Arab summit conference can inject life in the inactive Arab situation."

In an exclusive interview with KUNA, Essebsi called for "the intensification of efforts within the Arab League to activate the Arab-African dialogue and to give a push forward actual solidarity between Arab and African countries." He added: "I believe that Israel is trying hard now to regain its previous position in several African countries. While some Arab brothers have succeeded in checking Israeli activities on the African Continent and in curtailing its role, we must not overlook the fact that Israel has begun to return to the black continent with full force, supported by some big powers, and is exploiting the economic conditions and division from which many African countries suffer.

Asked if Tunisia is happy with the current level of Arab activity toward Africa to face up to the Zionist penetration, Essebsi said: "We believe there is a big dereliction in this regard."

A senior Tunisian diplomat is due to visit a number of African countries within the next 2 days to deliver messages from President Bourguiba to the heads of these countries. Asked about the contents of the messages, Essebsi said: "These messages fall within the framework of bilateral cooperation between Tunisia and the African countries which have suffered from drought and choking economic crises." He added that "Tunisia is always sensitive with regard to its African dimension and has always rushed to express active solidarity with the African peoples and countries, despite the shortage of Tunisian material resources."

Essebsi denied in reply to another question that anything new has developed with regard to Libya's application to joint the treaty of "fraternity and accord" which includes Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania. He said: "Nothing new has happened in this regard other than that we are in contact with all the brothers on a bilateral basis, and our relations are proceeding along agreed upon lines. Tunisia has been carrying out its commitments within the framework of the agreements we have concluded."

Asked about the position of Algeria and Mauritania toward the Libyan application, Essebsi said: "As far as Tunisia is concerned, we do not play any coordination role in this respect. I believe that the brothers in Libya have applied to the Algerian and Mauritanian brothers to joint the treaty. They also applied to Tunisia. The question should be addressed to the brothers in Algeria and Mauritania. As far as we are concerned, our reply has been clear and public — we have welcomed the application, provided there are consultations to create favorable conditions for the implementation of the treaty in spirit and letter."

He denied that there are any obstacles to Libya's annexation to the treaty, saying: "There are no obstacles or prior conditions. There are, however, efforts to create favorable conditions so that the joining of another country in the treaty will be a gain and an element of strength, solidarity, immunity and will refrain from retraction, God forbid."

The Paris-based paper *JEUNE AFRIQUE* has published a statement in its latest edition attributed to the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi which created a big political clamor in Tunisia. The paper quoted Al-Qadhdhafi saying: "Suppose, for example, that I, with the help of some Tunisian opposition leaders, occupied tomorrow a part of the territory of my northern neighbor Tunisia. Do you think anybody would stop me? Who can force me to abandon a fait accompli? Algeria? It will be content to occupy the remaining part. Egypt? It will create a clamor and nothing more. France and the United States? You will find them putting on a show of warships in the sea while knowing that they can impress nobody but the press. Who remains? The Arab league, the OAU or the UN Security Council? In short, nobody."

Asked if the Tunisian Government has asked for any clarification regarding the statement attributed to Al-Qadhdhafi from its Libyan counterpart, Essebsi said: "Our relations with friendly countries and particularly with neighboring countries are governed by political facts and not by statements or press analyses. Our relations with Libya are clear, particularly as it is a neighboring state. It will always be near Tunisia until the day when God inherits the earth and everything on it, and he is the best one to inherit it." He added: "Some problems or excessive sentivities may take place between us sometimes, but we try to solve them by negotiation."

With regard to the Western Sahara, which is a bone of contention between the Moroccan Government and the Polisario, the Tunisian foreign minister affirmed his country's adherance to the OAU and the African summit conferences' resolutions in this regard.

Asked if this commitment means that Tunisia approves a direct dialogue between the Moroccan Government and the Polisario for ending the problem, Essebsi confined himself to say: "We prefer the implementation in letter and spirit of the resolutions adopted in this regard."

In reply to another question, Essebsi affirmed that nothing but an Arab summit conference can inject life in the inactive Arab conditions that prevail at present. He called on "every Arab country to work individually for bolstering the Palestine question, which is the principal Arab problem." "The current Arab situation is critical," he said, "and I believe that we cannot do anything with credibility before we clear the Arab atmosphere and before the Arab countries meet to formulate a unified Arab plan and a joint Arab action."

Asked if Tunisian diplomacy plans to make a move to clear the Arab atmosphere, Essebsi replied: "There is a committee within the framework of the Arab League whose task is to clear the Arab atmosphere. It consists of a number of prominent Arab countries. It is not Tunisia's habit to compete with others, but rather to respect Arab unanimity. If we are asked, however, we will be ready to comply. The best approach is to support this committee."

Asked if the recent acts of violence that Tunisia witnessed last January and the current troubles it is witnessing in some sectors of the public service are directed against the government of Mohamed Mzali, or against the regime as a whole, Essebsi said: "I believe this question should be addressed to my colleague, the minister of the interior, because he might be better placed to express an opinion. As foreign minister, I am not in a position to state things categorically. I want to say, however, that I regret the occurence of such strikes, because on the one hand, the conditions are not favorable, and on the other the Tunisian Government has done much to improve the conditions of the public servants in particular fields. It has not closed the door to dialogue and consultation.

As a government, we believe that all legitimate demands should be taken into consideration and discussed. Strikes in themselves harm the country and its economy, capabilities and resources. I do not believe there is any country that does not want to rid itself of strikes because of the great harm they cause to national economies. This is what I can say. But whether these strikes were directed against this quarter or that, that is a different matter."

Asked if the occurence of trouble in Morocco and Tunisia at the same time is indicative of attempts by foreign quarters to disturb the stability of the two regimes in these two Arab countries, Essebsi said: "At the present stage, I cannot answer this question. As you know, we have formed a committee to investigate the causes of the trouble, and the committee has not yet completed its investigation. I believe it would be wiser to await the results. However, I do not exclude the possibility of foreign attempts. Every developing country working to bolster its independence, strength, development and growth is exposed to attempts to contain its independent decision-making ability. But as far as we are concerned here in Tunisia, we have nothing to prove the existence of such attempts."

Essebsi expressed his optimism about the future and strength of Tunisia and the strength of its ruling regime and stability."

Commenting on KUNA's remark that his reply indicates that the acts of violence and disturbances that Tunisia witnessed last month and is witnessing at present were directed against the regime as a whole, and not against the government of Mzali alone, Essebsi said: "No, No. You have already asked me this question and I have answered it in a clear and unambiguous way. I cannot be treated in this way."

Asked why he refuses to reveal facts that must be in his possession regarding the internal situation in Tunisia, in his capacity as one of the principal persons participating in the formulation of political decisions in his country through the daily meetings which are held under the chairmanship of President Bourguiba, Essebsi smiled and said: "It is not customary for officials at my level of responsibility to reveal what takes place at official meetings. Our government has its publicly declared stands. It is wrong, in my opinion, to reveal what takes place at the office of the president of the republic. Hence, I do not want to talk about this subject."

Bourguiba Receives Breakaway Union Leaders

LD221342 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Carthage, 22 Feb (TAP) — President Habib Bourguiba this morning received members of the Executive Bureau of the Tunisian National Federation of Labor, led by Abdelaziz Bouraoui, secretary general of this labor organization. It is worth noting that this new organization emerged after a split in the Tunisian Federation of Trade Unions (UGTT) led by Habib Achour.

It is known that seven current members of the Tunisian National Federation of Labor were expelled from the Executive Bureau of the federation led by Habib Achour, after differences in points of view between the two factions.

After the meeting between the representatives of the new federation and the president of the republic, Abdelaziz Bouraoui said: I introduced to the president the Executive Bureau, which was elected in the inaugural conference of the Tunisian National Federation of Labor on Sunday, 19 February. The audience took place in an amicable and friendly atmosphere. We specifically insisted on reforming the democratic trade union course. We try to achieve the demands of the working class within the higher interest of the homeland.

ETHIOPIA

EPLF Forces Ambush Ethiopian Soldiers 20 Jan

EA221403 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0430 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Summary] In an ambush of Ethiopian soldiers moving towards Gura from the vicinity of (?Adi Aro) on 20 January, EPLF forces killed or wounded 15 soldiers and captured 20 others. They also captured 15 weapons of various types.

TPLF Claims Ethiopian Base Captured

EA221815 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Front in Somali to Western Somalia 1200 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The gallant liberation fighters of Tigrai, TPLF, [Tigre People's Liberation Front] launched an attack on the Abyssinian forces stationed at (Senkaber) in western Tigrai on 7 February 1984 and captured the enemy base.

In the engagement, the TPLF's intrepid fighters killed and wounded over 30 enemy soldiers stationed at the base. The TPLF fighters also took six prisoners and captured 12 assorted rifles, 37 RBG-7 rocket launchers, and a very large quantity of military hardware the fleeing enemy soldiers left behind. The reports add that the enemy Abyssinian soldiers lost one vehicle and other military equipment.

Other reports originating from the TPLF state indicate that several Abyssinia militia soldiers sent to the western region of Tigrai to oppress and molest the innocent and defenseless people there have been engaged by the TPLF who killed 40 of them and wounded many others. The TPLF forced the militia to retreat to the towns from whence they launched their attack.

The reports further add that several workers of what the Addis Ababa regime calls the Workers Party have defected to the TPLF with 21,000 birr.

CONGO

Head of State Receives Sao Tome, French Ministers

AB221950 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The head of state this morning granted audiences to Mrs Maria da Graca Amorim, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, and to Christain Nucci, minister delegate to the Ministry of External Relations for Cooperation.

The Sao Tomean minister of foreign affairs was received from 1100 to 1200, and at the conclusion of the meeting delivered a message from her head of state to his Congolese counterpart. The message, she said, testifies to the excellent relations of understanding, friendship, and cooperation between our two countries. Mrs Amorim arrived in Brazzaville on Monday and leaves for Algiers this evening.

The head of state also received Christian Nucci who arrived today in Brazzaville. He said his discussions with the Congolese head of state centered on the existing bilateral cooperation between France and the Congo, which in his opinion, is excellent. The French minister will address the meeting of the ACP [Asia, Pacific, Caribbean]-EEC parliamentarians before leaving Brazzaville this evening. France currently holds the chairmanship of the Community, and it is for this reason that Nucci is in Brazzaville.

Present at the audiences were Pierre Nze, minister of foreign affairs, and Basil Ekouebe, adviser on diplomatic affairs at the President's Office.

GHANA

Rawlings Addresses Nation on Domestic Development

AB230740 Accra Domestic Service in English 1930 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Address to the nation by Head of State Jerry Rawlings in Accra — live]

[Excerpts] Countrymen and women, we have a list of little headaches. Nothing much that is appreciably serious, that needs to be mentioned [words indistinct]. Some of the old enemy habits are returning, led by some of the old guards, not in a repentant, contributive, and constructive manner, but (?in a bid) to infiltrate and to destroy. Some of us have spent so much national time on the peaceful defense of freedom and justice for this country. Some of that pressure has eased — not that it is completely (?defused) for us — but it has eased. We shall now have to turn around and concentrate on domestic issues. We are hoping this year will be, hopefully, a more constructive year, more time to be spent on constructive issues — national development — and on our political organs.

At the beginning of the revolution, the people organized themselves, [words indistinct] and began the process of building a nation free from injustice, oppression, and corruption; a nation in which every man and woman has a responsible role to play. There were some among us who did not realize that the task ahead will be a long and continuing process. There were some who, in their simplicity, expected overnight results. There were opportunists, hiding behind slogans and disguised as real revolutionaries, who tried to use newly won freedom for their own ends. Hyprocrisy and intrigues were used to manipulate the process to serve other interests. And I do not think any one of us anticipated the (?scale) of the natural disasters arising from the drought which has been sweeping across Africa, and which has also affected our food and power supplies and made the purchase of fuel a heavy burden, and which has consequently made the struggle so much more difficult and very complex.

All these hardships have made some of us lose heart, have made us discouraged when we realized finally the magnitude of the fight which lies ahead. And yet something has happened to us in the last 2 years, something that has given us the courage to face the difficulties and hardships which we are fighting together — the mystery of the Ghanaian strength. Foreigners, for instance, have expressed amazement at the calm and fortitude with which, despite day-to-day anxiety, the Ghanaian people cope with the hard times we have gone through and which still lie ahead. And this fortitude, no doubt, can only come from confidence in the future, a conviction that we can struggle through and attain our hopes for social justice.

My brothers and sisters, our genuine and dedicated citizens of the revolution have faced two forms of discouragements. One is the apparently increasing influence of money and possessions, which seems to be creeping back in the wake of the government's reconciliation policy, and is slowly undermining the credibility and resolve of dedicated servants of the revolution. The organs of the revolution see this happening but they seem to appear helpless in combatting it. The other problem is the occasional criticism to which the basic revolutionary organs of the nation have been subjected. Some of them, I know they are saying to themselves, so it seems that we cannot do anything right, but meanwhile, we see so many things going wrong. I understand. And most of them or some are on the verge of losing confidence and becoming rather demoralized.

And how has this situation come about? Our detractors first tried to split us from within. They exploited the differences within the revolutionary ranks. But after the events of October and November 1982, we closed that door to them and it is a door which must be kept locked and guarded. After the attempt of 19 June last year, it became clear that a frontal attack cannot succeed and will not succeed, and that does not mean that they will not try again and again. They have had to look for other means, however, and what they have done is to take the government policy of reconciliation, a policy which is meant to give room for any patriotic person of integrity and good will to participate in the decisionmaking process, and to twist it and distort this policy to dilute and divert the strength of the revolution. And in the name of reconciliation, the struggle is being infiltrated by people who are using old political and financial influence — religious factions and chieftancy disputes — to undermine the organs of the revolution.

At this point, let me give you an example of the type of intrigue which goes on. A regional secretary and a regional coordinator built up a very dedicated and efficient team of cadres in their region. Now some of those who in the past have wielded political, financial, religious, and traditional power in that region cannot stomach the idea that these young men and women are taking part in decisions which the old guards thought was their exclusive right to make, and they said to themselves: Who are these young men and women after all? This is the dismissive question the unsensible diehards tend to ask. It should be easy to deal with them, is what they assume.

These young men and women are very hardworking and that makes the old guards more determined to get rid of them. So they try another plan. They end up accusing the young and noble PDC [People's Defense Committee] men of corruption. They hide themselves behind some blind ignorant and corrupted PDC and WDC [Workers Defense Committee] officials and so-called youth associations, some of whom are manipulated to sign accusations and put their very signatures on some of these papers.

What did they end up doing from this particular area? A delegation is provided with air tickets and maintenance money to come down and to present their concocted petition. A member of the NDC [National Defense Committee] is dispatched to hold an inquiry on the accusation. At a series of hearings — and not private hearings but very public hearings — these accusations are demolished and found to be false.

The false corruption charges can therefore not be used any longer to remove these noble PDC young men and women who are stumbling blocks in the way of these old guards. They must find another strategy however. And what is their next strategy? Laziness and corruption cannot be used because these people are not lazy and they are not corrupt. So the old guards try to use tribalism, chieftancy disputes, and religious factions. This is very slippery ground for the young men and women. Why is this slippery ground for our young men and women? Because in the world of ignorant people, the issue of tribalism and religion invokes blind passions. The ordinary people are driven to action by such lower instincts — when I say lower instincts, subhuman instincts, instincts below what you expect of human beings. People tend to act or react without reasoning, without intellectual assessment of the issues on the table.

However, these young men holding onto principles refuse to take sides and end up earning the disapproval of all sides. So religious and chieftancy problems begin to be fomented, for the young men and women rightly sidestep these traps. Another strategy which has occasionally been adopted is to try and discredit them in the eyes of other citizens and revolutionary cadres. They resolve to publish an item in the press to convey the impression that they were arresting and imprisoning their own cadres, but carefully omitting to explain that these were the plotters and forgers of signatures now having to face tribunal. But here again, people in other regions would not know these details and would therefore end up swallowing the false picture that was being painted.

Meanwhile, what is going on? Support is built up among political and financial old guards who could later use their money and influence in undermining the running of the region. Fortunately, the hypocrites behind such intrigues have entangled themselves deeper and deeper, thinking that nobody is watching, but we all are. And we are watching others who have been given a long rope and are just about to hang themselves.

Let me warn you, these people have suffered and they are experienced. They know more about the game of political maneuvering than the young, committed but inexperienced cadres to the extent of using and manipulating unsuspecting cadres against each other. They hide behind other people and use such words as they gradually wind their way into positions of influence. During a situation like this, the organs of the revolution want to take action. You do and I want, but most of you, most of them, hold themselves back because they have heard a great deal of criticism of their hasty actions in the past. In the early days of the revolution, there were, no doubt, too many (?oppressors) and it was therefore necessary to criticize actions which caused unnecessary alienation. It was also necessary to call for more self-criticism and examination. But these criticisms have been misused and inflated by these very detractors. Brothers and sisters, unconsidered actions do sometimes occur, but we must acknowledge that they are much less common than they were.

When they happen, they are most of the time often blown up out of all proportions, sometimes deliberately so by detractors in order to discredit PDC and WDC as a way of undermining their existence. But the PDC and WDC have learned a lot during the past 2 years. Naive young cadres have matured. Zonal and district coordinators, who a year ago would have rushed headlong into confused action when confronted by a problem, are now wise enough to go about things in a more considerate manner. Some of them are now wiser and see the wisdom in consulting elderly and more mature people within their various communities and working places. Some of these elderly and patriotic citizens have themselves become PDC members and executives. There is, however, still the need for constant self-examination, appraisal, and reflection. But that does not mean sitting and allowing the forces of reaction to have their way. The organs of the revolution must have the confidence to prevent these negative tendencies, secure in the knowledge that what is right and just in the eyes of the poeple will be supported.

The attack on social injustice goes on. There is a clear line between right and wrong, between justice and injustice, and anyone who thinks that he can cross that line untouched is making a very grave mistake. I know that there are some people who think that they are getting away with it. Let me assure you that nobody is going to get away with anything. The files, the letters, the reports awaiting release and action are there, yet there are people trying to delay them, hide them, even setting fire to records in order to wriggle out of the corners into which they have been forced.

But it is all going to come out into the open. My brothers and sisters, we cannot do it all alone and certainly not at once. It has to be systematic. The crooked structures cannot be dismantled overnight, and we must be building as fast or faster than we dismantle them. Nevertheless, the mess will be cleaned up and the squareheads will be discarded. You must, therefore, not be afraid to take positive actions or report to the appropriate agencies. The organs of the revolution must stand firm and hold the line of defense. But let me emphasize: Your actions must be considerate and mature. They must be positive and constructive. They must be actions which will allow us to hold our heads high in the knowledge that they are right and just. We cannot pursue the cause of justice by unjust means. I said that before and I am saying it again.

During the past 2 years, as you all know, some of its light, the light of enthusiasm which was generated, has been dimmed. But it has, however, been guarded by the very ordinary people: by farmers in remote villages, despite their hardships worse than those of us in the parasitic urban areas; been defended by some workers; by some people in offices; defended by some noble and courageous soldiers and policemen; by cadres; and some cadres in all walks of life. It still burns because it is an unquenchable flame. It is your responsibility to guard and feed this flame.

Countrymen and women, revolution is freedom. It is justice — the way to freedom and justice. Revolution is light, a (?guiding light). It is true, revolution is knowledge. Another piece of advice to you is that you let us stop blowing [word indistinct] at the strength of our enemy. We can deal with the strength of our enemies by concentrating our efforts on dealing with our own weaknesses. Knowledge, to replace ignorance. Knowledge, knowledge, knowledge. Courage, faith, determination — faith in your very individual self. Do not wait to see them act on the left or right of yourself. It is our future. We will have to make it. Thank you, may God bless you. Good night.

TUC Wants Further Reduction of Commodity Prices

AB230940 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The TUC [Trades Union Congress] has decided to pay for, and collect, the essential commodities allocated to members last December through Kingsway Stores. Announcing this at a news conference in Accra today, Ofori Ababio, general secretary of the Public Services Workers Union and acting secretary general of the TUC, said the congress has reluctantly taken this decision in order to enable Kingsway Stores to use the money to repay the loan it took to clear the goods for the workers. Ofori Ababio said the TUC did not collect the goods earlier because it wanted the prices to be reduced.

He said the congress still wants the prices of maize, rice, and sugar to be reduced further. It will be recalled that last week, Monday, the government announced a reduction of the consumer prices of maize from 32 cedis a kilo to 24 and rice from 48 cedis to 40. The TUC wants maize to sell at 12 cedis, rice at 13 cedis, and sugar at 8 cedis per kilo.

GUINEA

Toure Receives Hassan Envoy, Guy Penne

AB221012 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpts] President Ahmed Sekou Toure, supreme leader of the revolution, today received in audience at the presidency of the Republic His Excellency Reda Guedira, special envoy of His Majesty Hassan II, king of Morocco. Mr Reda Guedira, who is carrying a message from the king to the supreme leader of the revolution, was accompanied by the Moroccan ambassador to Guinea, Taieb Belarbi. The head of state also received Guy Penne, personal adviser to the president of the French Republic on African and Malagasy affairs, who was accompanied by the French ambassador to Guinea, Yvon Omnes. Guy Penne came to deliver a message from French President Francois Mitterrand to Sekou Toure.

President Ahmed Sekou Toure also received Paulo Correia, chairman of the board of directors of the West African Rice Development Association, who is also the minister of rural development of Guinea-Bissau. He carried a message from President Joao Bernardo Vieira to the supreme leader of the revolution.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet, Chirac Meet, Comment on Talks

AB221050 Paris AFP in French 1848 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Abidjan, 21 Feb (AFP) — Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny this morning said upon receiving Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac at his Abidjan residence, that he was skeptical over the outcome of the North-South dialogue. "Nothing will come out of such a dialogue if an earlier conference isn't held between the countries of the North followed by consultations among the countries of the South," President Houphouet-Boigny explained during his audience with the Paris mayor which took place in the presence of officials of the Francophone Mayors Association (AIMF) headed by Jacques Chirac.

"The North must know what it wants to do. It is from this double understanding that we can begin negotiating," the Ivory Coast president added. Mr Houphouet-Boigny stressed that the situation will worsen if the European countries do not overcome their selfishness. "The South merely wants to cooperate within the framework of mutual respect for each side. As you help us, you will be helping yourselves as well," he continued.

Touching on his country's present economic crisis, the Ivorian president deplored the fact that the country must repay in dollars money it borrowed in francs.

After a private lunch with Mr Houphouet-Boigny, Mr Chirac agreed with the idea forwarded by the Ivorian head of state on holding a North-North dialogue to be followed by a South-South dialogue. "It is only when the developing countries on the one hand, and the developed ones on the other, succeed in agreeing on one policy that a coherent North-South dialogue can be held," he asserted.

The mayor of Paris, who has been in Abidjan since Sunday evening, and who presided over Monday's meeting in Abidjan of the Executive Bureau of the AIMF, also revealed the decisions made by the bureau. Four topics will be examined to help developing countries. They are related to the adaptation of local finances; construction of municipal housing units; and computerization of municipal management and administration.

Concrete decisions will be made on the results of these studies during the upcoming AIMF General Assembly to be held in July in Quebec during the 450th anniversary celebrations of the discovery of Canada by Jacques Cartier. Mr Chirac and members of the AIMF were officially received on Monday by the mayor of Abidjan. The mayor of Paris also held several private discussions with various members of the Ivorian Government.

The AIMF currently has 35 members representing 24 countries, 15 of which are Africa.

NIGERIA

Further Reportage on Visit of Libya's Jallud

Meets Idiagbon

AB221638 Lagos NAN in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 22 (NAN) — The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brig Tunde Idiagbon, today in Lagos said that Nigeria did not believe that there would be peace in Africa until colonialism was flushed out. Brig Idiagbon said this at the opening of bilateral talks, lasting one day between him and the visiting Libyan prime minister [title as received] Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud. He said that Nigeria and Libya had an important role to play toward the elimination of colonialism on the continent.

Brig Idiagbon said that Africa remained the centre-piece of Nigeria's foreign policy, adding that it strongly believed in the OAU resolutions on problems facing the continent. He noted that during the visit of the Libyan leader, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to Nigeria last year, the two countries, among other things, discussed scientific, economic, and technical cooperation, but said that nothing had been done since then. He expressed the hope that the current talks would pave the way for further deliberations in the areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, at a dinner party in honor of the visiting prime minister last night, the chief of staff called on Libya to cooperate with Nigeria in its efforts to resolve all issues affecting Chad. Brig Idiagbon told the Libyan prime minister that both countries were big and powerful African countries, and should cooperate to bring about peace in the continent. He stressed the Federal Military Government's commitment to the OAU resolutions.

Maj Jallud stated that Libya shared a lot in common with Nigeria, adding that the Federal Military Government was an expression of Nigeria's desire for a revolutionary leadership. [Passage indistinct] imperialism and neocolonialism."

Meets Buhari; Discuss Africa

AB230943 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Libya says she is willing to develop brotherly ties with Nigeria on all fronts. The Libyan prime minister, Major as-Salam Jallud, made this known yesterday when he paid a courtesy call on the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, at Dodan Barracks.

Maj Jallud said that Libya wanted to see Nigeria really strong and self-reliant so that it could lead the rest of Africa. He requested Nigeria to cooperate with his country in finding a lasting solution to the problems of Chad, Western Sahara, and southern Africa.

In his response, the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, welcomed Libya's efforts to improve the economic, cultural, and diplomatic ties with Nigeria, adding that the two countries shared common values with their (?fundamental Islamity). He restated Nigeria's belief that the Chadian problem could only be resolved if all the factions met to find out their differences. On Namibia, Gen Buhari said that Nigeria would welcome any efforts that would bring a speedy implementation of Resolution 435 of the United Nations on the territory's independence.

Suspected Mercenaries Arrested; Libya Implicated

AB221355 Paris AFP in English 1339 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 21 (AFP) — Nigerian security agents have arrested some 200 foreigners believed to have been recruited for training by Libya for mercenary activities in Chad, the official *NEW NIGERIAN* newspaper reported today.

Some of the people were picked up near the Libyan Embassy here, which was allegedly being used as a training base. Others were arrested near the airport, and around 100 were still being held at an immigration camp, the paper said.

The article, quoting Nigerian Security Organisation (NSO) sources, said that the alleged mercenaries from Ghana, Togo, and Benin, as well as Libya, were rounded up between February 10 and 11.

Director of Immigration L. Sambo reportedly said he would investigate the issue. Some of the foreign nationals were said to have been deported, while efforts were being stepped up to send home the others.

The report follows others by the Nigerian press that Libya, which backs ousted President Goukouni Oueddei in the Chad civil war, was using African countries as recruiting areas for forces destined to go to Chad.

The report also coincides with a visit to Lagos by Libya's "number two" Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, who arrived in the Nigerian capital yesterday for talks expected to touch on the Chadian question.

France To Help on IMF Loan Negotiations

AB221918 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] France has pledged cooperation with the Federal Military Government on the refinancing of Nigeria's short-term debts, and on negotiations for the IMF loan. This assurance follows bilateral talks in Paris between the Minister of Finance, Dr Onaolapo Soleye and his French counterpart, Mr Jacques Delors, yesterday. Mr Delors also undertook to review the strength of external trade insurance [words indistinct] for French exports to Nigeria.

Minister on 'Nigerianization Policy', Gas Flaring

AB221005 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Nigeria has called on oil companies operating in the country to step up the implementation of the Nigerianization policy in their establishments. The minister of petroleum and energy, Professor Tan David-West, made the call in Lagos yesterday at a meeting he had with chief executives of oil-producing companies. He commended some of the firms for the efforts made in that direction, but was dissatisfied with others for their slow pace. The minister told the oil executives to investigate and eliminate some allegations that some aliens without resident permits were being flown into the country from neighboring states to work in oil rigs.

On the liquified natural gas and petrochemical project, Professor David-West regretted that the planning period for the venture had taken too long. He emphasized the commitment of the present administration to ensure that the project took off, and Professor David-West noted that while some companies have devised methods for gas reinjection, the attitude of others has been negative. The minister stated that in spite of the obvious technicalities involved, all oil companies will have to comply with the 1984 deadline because there will be no further extension on gas flaring. He stressed the need for oil companies to plow back some of their profits into the nation's economy by establishing viable projects.

Responding on behalf of his collegues, the chief executive of Texaco, Jay Robinson, stressed the need for the oil companies to maintain a mutual working relationship with Nigeria.

Minister Denounces Illegal Sale of Oil

AB230935 Lagos NAN in English 0910 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 22 (NAN) — Nigeria loses about one million dollars (about 700,000 naira) a day from the illegal sale of oil across the country's borders, the minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West, told newsmen in Lagos today. The minister told a news conference that some of the country's oil appeared on the spot market in Rotterdam without the authorization of the Federal Government. OPEC regulations bar member-states from selling oil on the spot market.

Prof David-West said that the issue of the sale on the spot market was raised at yesterday's meeting he held with chief executives of the 10 oil firms in the country.

Without giving specific cases of illegal trafficking in oil, Prof David-West said that a vessel came into the country and carted away 700,000 barrels of oil, adding that some Nigerians were involved in another 14.5 million [currency not given]

The minister said that between 1979-1983, 72 Nigerians were given licences to sell oil, but that the present administration found that only two of them were actively participating in the oil business. "Licenses were given freely without consideration of their implications to the country's economy," he said. He said that the government had planned to fight the illegal deal, and that the Navy and the Air Force would be involved, adding, "the collusion is not localised."

Prof David-West said, "Some of our friends from certain Asian countries are involved in these deals," and that the Ministry of External Affairs was taking up the issue with the embassies and high commissions of the nationals.

Military Government Issues Gazette on Policy

Constitutional Modifications Clarified

AB171759 Lagos NAN in English 1322 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 17 (NAN) — The Federal Military Government today in Lagos released a gazette explaining the details of the Constitutional Suspension Modification Decree 1984. The decree states "No question as to the validity of this or any other decree or of any edict shall be entertained by any court of law in Nigeria." It empowers the Federal Military Government to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the country on any matter. It says that the military governor of a state shall not make any law on matters included in the exclusive legislative list, and except with the prior consent of the Federal Military Government, the governor shall not make any law on any matter on the concurrent legislative list relating to federal legislative powers set out in the second column of Part Two of the Second Schedule of the suspended Constitution.

The decree says that the question whether there had been any consultation with the Supreme Military Council (SMC) on the exercise of the executive authority of the country shall not be challenged or questioned in any court of law.

It provides for the establishment of an advisory judicial committee, headed by the chief justice of the federation, with powers to advise the SMC on the appointment of justices of the Court of Appeal; chief judges and judges of the high courts; chief judges and judges of the high courts of the states; the federal capital territory; the Grand Khadi and other khadis of the Sharia court of appeal of the states; the president; and other judges of customary courts of appeal.

The decree stipulates that all laws, other than any law to which Section 15 of this decree applies, which was in force before the commencement of the decree, shall until it is repealed be effective.

The decree was signed by the head of state, Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari, on Feb 9

Detention of Persons Decree

AB171810 Lagos NAN in English 1450 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 17 (NAN) — A Federal Military Government gazette explaining the State Security Detention of Persons Decree 1984 states in part: "No suit or other legal proceedings shall [word indistinct] against any person for anthing done or intended to be done in pursuance of this decree."

The gazette, released in Lagos today by the Cabinet Office, stipulates that any person detained between Dec 31, 1983, and the date of the decree shall be deemed to have been detained under the decree.

The decree says: "If the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, is satisfied that any person is, or recently has been concerned in acts prejudicial to the state security, or has contributed to the economic adversities of the nation, or in the preparation or instigation of such acts, and it is necessary to exercise control over him, the chief of staff may, by order in writing, direct that the person be detained in a civil prison or police station or such other place specified by him".

"It shall be the duty of the person or persons in charge of such place or places, or an order made in respect of any, is delivered to him, to keep that person in custody until the order is revoked," it explains.

The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, according to the decree, "shall not later than three months after the date of an order made by him under this decree, and every three months thereafter, review the case of every person detained, and if satified that the circumstances no longer require the continued detention of the person affected, may revoke the order."

The decree, which was signed by the head of state, Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari, on Feb 9 became effective on Dec 31.

Further on Gazette

AB171845 Lagos NAN in English 1710 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 17 (NAN) — The Military governor of a state cannot make laws with respect to any matter included in the exclusive legislative list, according to Decree No One published in an extraordinary gazette.

The decree, which took effect from Dec 31, 1983, also stipulates that except with the prior consent of the Federal Military Government, military governors cannot make any law with respect to any matter in the concurrent list relating to the federal legislative process.

According to the decree, the power of the Federal Military Government to make laws shall be exercised by means of decrees signed by the head of state, while at the state level it shall be edicts signed by the military governor.

It provides for the establishment of a supreme military council, a national council of state, and a federal executive council at the national level, while at the state level it provides for a state executive council.

The decree also provides for the establishment of an advisory judicial committee to be headed by the chief justice of the federation.

It stipulates that all laws which were in force before the commencement of the decree or made before that date, but came into force on or before the commencement of the decree shall, until they are amended, suspended or modified, be effective. "No question as to the validity of this or any other decree or any edict shall be entertained by any court of law in Nigeria," it adds.

Dailies on Political Detentions, Press Freedom

AB171100 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The *GUARDIAN* does not understand why former Vice President Alex Ekwueme is still in Kirikiri Prison while former President Shehu Shagari is just under house arrest. The paper argues that since Ekwueme and Shagari presided over a government together, they were supposed to be equally treated. Also the *GUARDIAN* says Jakande [former governor of Lagos State] ought to be set free if nothing incriminating has so far been traced to him.

The *NIGERIAN CHRONICLE* focuses on a recent statement by the minister of justice and attorney general of the federation that he would not allow too much freedom for the Nigerian press. While the paper agrees with the minister's legal (?pundits) on the issue, it says there is need for the freedom of the press and this is within the law. However, the *CHRONICLE* points out that absolute freedom is dangerous and should not be encouraged. Concluding, the paper says that press freedom is a fundamental human right, and the press should exercise this right with the view to correcting and improving the conduct of public affairs.

Daily Calls for Expediting Trial of Detainees

AB212138 Lagos International Service in English 1430 GMT 21 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the political detainees at the Kirikiri National Prison, *THE NIGERIAN TRIBUNE* advises the Federal Military Government to expedite action on their trial. While *THE TRIBUNE* understands that investigations are still in progress on the detainees, it says such efforts should be intensified.

Expatriate Teachers To Be Replaced in Bauchi

AB200810 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Expatriate teachers will no longer be employed in post-primary institutions in Bauchi state. Answering questions on an [words indistinct] Bauchi program, the state governor, Brigadier S. Sani said all expatriates engaged in these institutions will leave at the expiration of their contracts. The governor stated that he would replace the expatriates with competent teachers from the state or other parts of the country.

Brig Sani said most of the existing 155 post-primary institutions in the state will be merged.

Cross River Governor on Ethnic Organizations

AB201810 Lagos NAN in English 1742 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Calabar, Feb 18 (NAN) — The Cross River military governor, Navy Capt Archibong, said yesterday in Calabar that he would ban all ethnic organisations in the state because they were unprogressive in outlook. Capt Archibong noted that there was "a lot of in-fighting" among the ethnic groups via the various cultural organizations. During a meeting with the executive members of the organisations, the governor said that security reports reaching him clearly imply that these cultural organisations were still politicking after political parties and affiliations had been banned. He disclosed that within the past seven weeks, petitions were written to Lagos alleging that he was not only a member of the Akwa Esop Imaisong Ibibio, [a secret cult organization] but that he held regular meetings with them. Capt Archibong further said the petitioners wanted him reassigned as a result of allegations that he has been controlled by that ethnic organisation.

The governor said he had made up his mind to proscribe these organisations if reports continue to show their political and ethnic inclination, adding that hatred and rancour had been let loose in the state by those who exploited the illiteracy and poverty of the people for their selfish ends.

He appealed to the leaders of the organisations to work together to heal the wounds of the people, adding that they should put up a united front in the interest of progress. These organisations, whose leaders have promised to cooperate with the governor are: Akwa Esop Imaisong Ibibio, Afemannang, Esop Mkvarawa, Nka Ekpeyong Nnuk, and Nka Nkaiso Efik, Qua Ye Efut.

Maiduguri University Bans All Religious-Activities

AB211951 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The University of Maiduguri has banned all religious activities other than regular prayers on the campus. A statement from the Office of the Registrar directed that no preaching, film shows, and [words indistinct] should be entertained until further notice.

Commentary Hails Andropov's African Policies

AB171244 Lagos International Service in English 0930 GMT 17 Feb 84

[From the feature "Viewpoint"]

[Text] Yuriy Andropov, the fifth leader of the Soviet Union since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, has had the shortest presidency, lasting under 2 years. But the short era was not uneventful as far as international politics is concerned. During Andropov's reign, the Soviet Union remained unrelenting in its criticisms of the apartheid regime in South Africa and its unflinching support for the cause of liberation movements on the African Continent. More significantly, the Soviet Union under Andropov welcomed genuine political changes in Africa and did nothing to undermine the interests of the succeeding regimes.

For a long time before the emergence of Andropov's leadership, the USSR had demonstrated that she was a genuine friend of Africa, involving herself in various development projects on the continent. This explains why Nigeria and many other African states sent such high-level delegations to Moscow to attend the funeral of Yuriy Andropov. It is an appreciation of the long-standing Soviet solidarity with Africa. Of course, Africa cannot be unappreciative of the steadfast Soviet support for its cause both in the United Nations and other international forums. The records at the United Nations show that while some other countries were using the veto power to frustrate African aspirations, the Soviet Union, under its collective and disciplined leadership, constantly stood by Africa. Therefore, Africa holds the Soviet Union in high regard and is much indebted to her.

Nigeria in particular must be eternally grateful to the Soviet Union for her support when the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity were threatened during the civil war. The USSR stood firmly for the continued existence of Nigeria as one indivisible entity while others prevaricated. The new military government in Nigeria, which is less than 2 months old, sent a delegation headed by the second in command, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, to represent the country at Andropov's funeral as a mark of appreciation of Soviet solidarity with African states.

In fact, some of the actions of the Andropov presidency were similar to the policy of the present military administration in Nigeria. When Andropov assumed leadership of his country, his first act was directed at bolstering the flagging economy and stamping out corruption. These are also the set priorities of the Nigerian military government headed by Major General Muhammadu Buhari. The long and the short of it is that although the Andropov time at the helm of affairs in the Soviet Union was brief, African states appreciated the continuity and steadfastness of its character. That was why they sent those high-level delegations to Moscow to pay a last respect to the man who served as leader of the world's largest nation.

NAN on Establishment of African Defense Organ

AB181100 Lagos NAN in English 1430 GMT 16 Feb 84

[NAN feature: "At Last, an African High Command" — by Samuel Ajibola]

[Text] Accra, the seat of pan-Africanist struggles in the 50's and early 60's, bounced back into life in the last week of January this year as African defence ministers or their representatives met to discuss and adopt the long overdue protocol on the establishment of an African Defence Organ (ADO). The protocol outlines the objectives and institutions of the ADO, whose creation was first suggested 20 years ago by Ghana's first president, the late Dr Kwameh Nkrumah.

The main objectives of the ADO are to assist in the total liberation of Africa, help member-states to protect and defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and provide a peace-keeping or observer force in the event of conflicts between OAU member-states.

According to OAU spokesman, Dr Ibrahim Daggash, five institutions are envisaged in the protocol. These are a defence council; a committee of chiefs of staff; a military advisory office; a secretariat; and most important of all, an African high command or defence force.

The defence council, according to conference sources, would consist of 10 heads of state and government (or their authorised representatives) elected by the assembly of OAU heads of state on an equitable geographical basis for a period of two years. The council, whose functions could be likened to that of the board of directors of a company, would be responsible for "examining issues constituting a threat to the peace, security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of member-states, and taking appropriate decisions. [quotation marks as received]

The committee of chiefs of staff would consist of 10 high-ranking military officers, while the military advisory office would be headed by a senior army officer not less than the rank of colonel.

However, the most important of all the institutions envisaged is the African defence force.

The protocol does not spell out the strength of the force or how many men should join, although it provides for the appointment of a force commander who will be appointed by the defence council on the advice of the OAU secretary-general in consultation with the committee of chiefs of staff.

The role of the force is clearly stated in the protocol. It is to provide air, ground, sea, and logistic support to members-states, to fight external attack or aggression by apartheid South Africa, and assist African liberation movements with a view to securing total independence for the continent. It is also to provide observer or peace-keeping forces when member-states are engaged in war. Mindful of the problems that could face the defence force as a result of language differences and the disparity in the curricula of African military institutions, the Accra conference asked the OAU Secretariat to convene a meeting of military instructors of African military institutions. The proposed meeting would, among other things, draw up a programme for the harmonisation of training programmes in African military schools which would ensure uniformity in the command's structure.

Africa and its friends might not be able to resist the temptation to beat their breasts at this all-important decision to establish an African defence organ, but such a joy should be cautiously expressed if a look is taken at the real and potential problems the ADO is bound to face.

For one thing, the defence council, comprising 10 heads of state elected by their peers at a summit, would largely be responsible for taking political decisions on the deployment of the African army. Thus, if the now problematic quorum issue — which marred the OAU summit in Tripoli twice, and nearly split the conference at which the protocol in question was adopted — is not resolved as early as possible, important strategic decisions could be delayed or not taken at all. This would be to the detriment of member-states whose sovereignty may be threatened.

Other equally important questions which have to be settled by the OAU summit in Conakry, Guinea, next June, include the following: Will the force commanders choice be so politicised that an untested 25-year-old general can be offered that position? Will he serve only for the duration of the operation for which he was appointed? How will the defence budget be realised to support the outfit, considering that several OAU states are many years in arrears of their normal yearly contributions?

The eloquent and intensely emotional speeches made by all those who spoke at the Accra conference underscored continental concern for the genuine freedom of the African, and the restoration of his long-lost dignity. And the truth is that the freedom and dignity of the African are continuously threatened by the racist regime in South Africa and beyond.

OAU interim secretary-general, Nigeria's Peter Onu, in a five-page report on the situation in southern Africa, provided delegates with a vivid picture of South Africa's state of combat-readiness and continuing acts of aggression against independent African states, and conversely, the challenges that an African high command would invariably face. He disclosed Pretoria's plans to conscript white, Indian, and coloured women into its Armed Forces, and said: "The current total strength of South Africa's Defence Forces is 92,700, which pursue its acts of aggression, and the South African regime now operates an astromical war budget of 2.72 billion dollars." [sentence as received]

It must be added that thanks to its Western allies, Pretoria has acquired nuclear capability. It also recently obtained one of the most modern radar equipment from Marconi, a British firm. And late last year, it completed the installation of a modern communications complex at Silvermine, near Cape Town, with the objective of monitoring all air and sea traffic in the Indian Ocean and the south Atlantic.

Encouraged by this elaborate war-machine, the apartheid regime frequently invades Angola and has made intermittent forays into all other "Frontline States" with which it shares borders.

Describing the situation in Namibia, ONU says: "The politico-military situation here has developed into an alarming degree of wanton murders of innocent Namibians by the rascist troops. Arrests, imprisonment of Namibian patriots, especially members and supporters of SWAPO, have become the order of the day. The enemy forces exceed 100,000, and consist of army units, air force and police...the forces are well armed with sophisticated weapons and most of the units are highly mechanised."

The world press daily carries reports of South Africa's determination to eliminate the major liberation movements in the sub-region, namely, SWAPO, the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN),and the African National Congress [ANC). But apart from the South African question, there are [words indistinct].

SENEGAL

Head of State Chairs 21 Feb Cabinet Meeting

AB220955 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met this morning under the chairmanship of the head of state. The report at the end of the meeting indicates that the head of state informed the Cabinet of the audiences he granted a number of foreign personalities and delegations visiting Senegal in the past week.

The Cabinet also took the following individual measures: Chams Eddine Ndoye, Senegal's ambassador to Egypt, has also been named the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Senegal to Sudan with residence in Cairo.

TOGO

Communique Issued On Eyadema-Kerekou Talks

AB221300 Lome Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpts] General Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin, left Kara today at the end of a friendly working visit with his Togolese counterpart, General Gnassingbe Eyadema. The Beninese head of state, who arrived in Kara this morning, had the opportunity to discuss bilateral and current international issues with his brother Gen Eyadema.

A joint communique was issued to mark the conclusion of the visit and discussions between the the two heads of state. The communique was read by Anani Kuma Akakpo-Ahianyo, Political Bureau member and Togolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation:

[Begin Ahianyo recording] Within the framework of periodic consultations between the heads of state of Togo and Benin, His Excellency Gen Mathieu Kerekou, chairman of the Central Committee of the People's Revolution Party of Benin [PRPB], president of the Republic, head of state, and president of the National Executive Council [NEC], paid a friendly working visit to his brother and friend, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People [RTP] and president of the Republic, in Kara on 21 February 1984.

Fruitful talks between Presidents Eyadema and Kerekou enabled the two heads of state to note the great uniformity of their views on bilateral issues and major international problems. On bilateral issues, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the fraternal and friendly relations between their two peoples united by a long common history. To this end, they renewed their firm determination to work for the strengthening of these bonds of fraternity and friendship, and for the strengthening of relations of good neighborliness between the two countries. They expressed their satisfaction with the work accomplished by the Benin-Togo joint commission for the demarcation of borders, and promised to do everything toward its rapid conclusion in the two countries' common interest. They also agreed to intensify the economic, cultural, technical, and scientific cooperation which, fortunately, already exist between the two states.

In the field of energy, they expressed satisfaction with the progress made on negotiations for the development and exploitation of the hydroelectric complex at [place name indistinct] on the Mono River, an ideal and appropriate framework for harmonious and greater cooperation between the two sister countries. They thanked their partners in development who spontaneously decided, in the spirit of international solidarity, to participate in the financing of this important project, and expressed the hope that work on its realization will begin as quickly as possible.

Regarding rural development, the two heads of state decided to strengthen cooperation in the fields of agricultural research and development, stock breeding, seedling cultivation, and the protection of plants and animals. Presidents Eyadema and Kerekou also agreed to intensify trade between their two countries and strengthen their relations in the transportation field due to the role the two countries play in the movement of persons and goods in the subregion. In this connection, they expressed their happiness over the spontaneous cooperation established between the two countries in February and March 1983 in helping millions of African brothers who were forced to return to their countries.

Furthermore, to stimulate production and intensify trade between the two countries, the two heads of state have decided to establish a joint commission of development comprising the ministers in charge of finance, economic affairs, trade, planning, and rural development. They insisted that the competent ministers take the necessary measures to hold the initial meeting of the joint cooperation commission and joint development committees as soon as possible.

Emphasizing their determination to further strengthen cooperation in all fields and to establish a reciprocal climate of trust between their two peoples, the two heads of state instructed their ministers in charge of interior, security, and foreign affairs to revive their periodic meetings as soon as possible to prevent any subversive maneuvers and attempts to undermine peace and security in the two countries. To this end, the two heads of state reaffirmed the provisions of the extradiction agreement they signed in 1976, provisions they intend to apply strictly whenever necessary. Consequently, any Togolese or Beninese citizen who commits a misdemeanor in one of the two countries should not be accorded refuge in the other country. They decided to expand the envisaged periodic ministerial meetings to include the ministers of defense.

Regarding multilateral cooperation, the two heads of state also expressed happiness with their common membership in African and regional organizations such as the Entente Council, ECOWAS, and OCAM. They reaffirmed their conviction that it is above all within the framework of these institutions that problems facing their countries can be resolved. Concerning ECOWAS in particular, the two presidents called on member states to respect the clauses and provisions of the treaty, and to avoid taking internal measures that may violate the spirit of these clauses. They also deplored the fact that since the creation of ECOWAS, the results obtained do not respond to the peoples' aspirations, and therefore make an urgent appeal to member states so that the next summit provides a new impetus to the subregional organization.

Tackling major international issues, the two presidents first devoted their attention to conflicts presently wracking Africa that are often aggravated by foreign interference. The heads of state particularly dwelt on the situation in Chad. While expressing satisfaction over the OAU's decision to organize a roundtable for national reconciliation between the political and military factions in Chad, they expressed disappointment over the failure of this attempt and expressed the hope that African wisdom will find a solution to this painful problem.

Regarding the Western Sahara, they expressed the wish to see the rapid implementation of the 19th OAU summit resolution aimed at beginning direct negotiations between the two conflicting parties and organizing a referendum for self-determination to guarantee peace in the subregion. To this end, they support the current chairman of the OAU in his efforts to offset the danger threatening the organization, and encourage him to continue his activites to find a solution to the Chadian conflict and to the problem of self-determination for the Saharan people. They will attempt to do everything possible to ensure the success of the next OAU summit.

On Namibia, the two heads of state solemnly reaffirmed Namibia's right to immediate and unconditional independence, and the urgent need to strictly respect UN Security Council Resolution 435. They strongly condemned the South African regime's maneuvers which continues to link the Namibian issue to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Furthermore, they vigorously condemned the aggression perpetrated by South Africa against Angola and other Frontline countries, and renewed their firm support for Angola and the implementation of Resolution 435. The two heads of state expressed the hope that current negotiations will result in the implementation of the relevant OAU and U.N. resolutions aimed at the establishment of peace in southern Africa. Presidents Eyadema and Kerekou once again condemned the abominable apartheid policy of the racist South African Government and renewed their unflinching support for the just struggle of the South African people under the leadership of the ANC for the establishment of a democratic society based on social justice.

On the Middle East, the two heads of state expressed great concern over the explosive situation prevailing in that region. They expressed the hope that various interested parties would rapidly find a basis of understanding leading to peace.

Dwelling on the present disastrous economic situation in the world in general, and the Third World and Africa in particular, the two presidents stressed the need for the establishment of a fairer and more equitable international economic order. They pointed out that a greater share of the current disorder comes from the developed countries which devote a major portion of their resources to arms while hunger plagues a majority of countries. They expressed the hope that the next ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries]-EEC conference would largely contribute to the establishment of this new international economic order.

On the consequences of the drought which is currently ravaging most African countries, the two heads of state expressed happiness with the recent tour the UN secretary general made to certain African countries to find a solution to this tragic problem with the high authorities of the countries concerned. They stressed the urgent need for South-South cooperation in conjunction with North-South cooperation.

At the conclusion of their talks, which took place in a fraternal atmosphere of frank cordiality, Gen Mathieu Kerekou, chairman of the Central Committee of the PRPB, president of the Republic, president of the NEC, and head of state, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Togolese people, their government, and to Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding-chairman of the RTP and president of the Republic, for the warm and genuinely African reception accorded him and his delegation.

The delegations of the two countries consisted of the following persons:

On the Beninese side

— Michel Aladaye, member of the Political Bureau of the PRPB Central Committee and minister of interior and security

— Tiamiou Adjibabe, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation

— Alidou Boukary, minister of state farms, stockbreeding, and fishing

— Kifouli Salami, minister of planning, statistics, and economic analysis

— Manasse Ayayi, minister of commerce

On the Togolese side

— Kpotivi Tevi-Djidjogbe Lacle, member of the RTP Political Bureau and minister of interior

— Anani Kuma Akakpo-Ahianyo, member of the RTP Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation

— Tete Tevi-Benissan, member of the RTP Political Bureau and minister of economy and finance

— Barry Moussa Barque, member of the RTP Political Bureau and minister of public works, mines, energy, and hydraulic resources

— Anani Gassou, member of the RTP Central Committee and minister of rural development

— Koffi Walla, member of the RTP Central Committee and minister of planning, industry, and administrative reform

— Gbegnon Amegboh, member of the RTP Central Committee and minister delegate to the Presidency of the Republic in charge of information, posts, and telecommunications

— Aissah Agbetra, member of the RTP Central Committee and minister of third and fourth degree education and scientific research

— Poli Djalla, member of the RTP Central Committee and minister of commerce and transport

Issued in Kara on 21 February 1984

[Signed] For the Government of the Republic of Togo: His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the RTP and president of the Republic

For the Government of the People's Republic of Benin: His Excellency Brigadier Mathieu Kerekou, chairman of the PRPB Central Committee, president of the Republic, chairman of the National Executive Committee [applause] [end recording]

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Decree Repeals 11 Dec National Day

AB220950 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state decrees:

Article 1:—The provisions of Law No 1661AN of 9 May 1961 on the observation of National Day on 11 December have been repealed.

Article 2: 11 December has been declared a work day throughout Upper Volta.

Article 3: The present decree will be enforced as a state law.

Issued in Ouagadougou on 15 February 1984

Reportage on Foreign Minister's PRC Visit

For Beijing XINHUA in English and Ouagadougo Domestic in French accounts of Foreign Minister Hama Arba Diallo's visit to the People's Republic of China, including his talks with Li Xiannian, PRC president, and the signing of a cultural agreement, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 22 February China *DAILY REPORT*.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Message From Nyerere

MB221325 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party, received a personal message from Julius Nyerere, chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM], in Luanda this morning. (Kashimbombwe) Ngombale Mwiru, chief of the CCM Department of Political and Ideological Education, traveled to our country to deliver the message.

Rodrigues Says Cuban Presence Not Discussed

MB221511 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The Angolan minister of interior, Colonel Alexandre Rodrigues, has said at a news conference in Luanda that the hostilities in southern Angola have ended, and that some troops have already been withdrawn from the region.

Col Rodrigues, who was the leader of the Angolan delelgation at the recent talks with South Africa, said that present conditions were good for the creation of confidence. Such a climate would allow the joint military commission to open the way for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 for the independence of South-West Africa. Col Rodrigues said that South Africa and Angola had agreed to continue with their talks, and that three or four Americans would be allowed into Angola to take part in the meetings as observers. He added that the question of Cuban soldiers in Angola had not been discussed with South Africa.

ANGOP Says Talks With RSA Do Not Involve Namibia

MB221506 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] In a commentary issued today, the Angolan news agency, ANGOP, stresses that the Angolan presence at the talks with South Africa is not designed to discuss the various stages of the process of Namibian independence since this issue has to be tackled by the parties directly concerned, namely, South Africa and SWAPO. The Angolan presence is essentially designed to achieve the South African withdrawal from the national territory which has been illegally occupied by South African forces since August 1981. ANGOP notes that the People's Republic of Angola is (?an interested party in) the conflict and knows that the talks are only a preliminary stage of a direct meeting between SWAPO and South Africa without mediators [words indistinct] in the background.

UNITA Reports Killing 200 Enemy Troops, Cubans

PA201421 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1353 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Lisbon, 20 Feb (EFE) — The guerrilla organization the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), today announced in Lisbon that it has inflicted 200 dead on the Regular Army troops and Cuban expeditionary force supporting it.

A communique issued by Demostenes Chilingutila, UNITA chief of staff, claims that in the past 10 days UNITA patrols have killed 173 regular Army troops and another 28 Cubans, in addition to the 19 Angolan soldiers taken prisoner.

UNITA reports that the actions were within the framework of the "centralized offensive" that the forces are conducting in the provinces of northern and southern Cuanza, Huambo, Moxico, and Bie, in southeastern and central Angola.

UNITA claims to have downed an AN-12 transportation aircraft and captured its Soviet pilot.

In Huambo Province, there have been reports of repeated attacks on electric installations, railroads, and water lines. The most spectacular action reported was the annihilation of a government battalion in Troco Mukussuejeluau, where 64 enemy soldiers were killed. UNITA acknowledged 17 dead, 8 missing, and 60 wounded.

UNITA Communique Lists 31 Jan-9 Feb Actions

MB200912 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 20 Feb 84

["War" communique issued by the chief of the general staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] on 10 February 1984 at "UNITA Central Base in Angola"]

[Text] Uige Province: On 3 February 1984 our forces attacked an enemy column comprising seven vehicles traveling on the Luanda-Uige Road between Vista Alegre and Quitexe. Four Ural, Star, Mercedes-Benz, and Scania vehicles were destroyed.

Malanje Province: On 5 February 1984 our forces attacked the Brito Godins base, 60 km east of Duque de Braganca. A FAPLA barracks, two BRDM-2 armored vehicles, six troop carriers, four Caterpillar tractors, and one power station were destroyed.

Lunda Province: On 31 January 1984 our forces destroyed the bridge over the Cacuilo River on the Cacolo-Capenda Camulemba Road. On 1 February 1984 a Cuban column traveling from Luanda to Saurimo and comprising 450 vehicles was attacked between Capemba Camulemba and Xinge. A total of 37 armored and transport vehicles were burned after a 2-hour fight.

Moxico Province: On 31 January 1984 an MI-8 helicopter was shot down while straffing a village in the Cangumbe area. The helicopter was totally destroyed and its entire crew killed. On 5 February 1984 the bridge over the Cassai River between Teixeira de Sousa and Nova Chaves was destroyed. On 6 February 1984 an MIG-21, registration no C/211, piloted by Lieutenant Colonel (Henry), was shot down while straffing our forces in the Teixeira de Sousa area.

Bie Province: On 3 February 1984 a Cuban-FAPLA combined battalion was defeated in the Ringoma area, 40 km south of General Machado, when it unsuccessfully attempted to pursue our forces who had attacked Nova Sintra.

Huambo Province: On 4 February 1984 a bomb exploded at the (JF) warehouse at 5 de Outubro Avenue in the city of Huambo. The building was destroyed. On the same date a special commando unit attacked the Cuban barracks situated near the crossing leading to Comercio Road in the same city. Also on the same day, two bombs exploded inside two state security vehicles which guarded the area where the 4 February celebrations were taking place. At 0921 on 9 January 1984, in the city of Huambo, a Boeing 737, registration no T2TDV, carrying a Cuban-FAPLA combined contingent was shot down. [Words indistinct] disappeared.

The struggle triumphs. United we shall win.

UNITA Central Base in Angola on 10 February 1984, year of the anti-Cuban Patriotic Front.

[Signed] Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, chief of general staff of FALA

UNITA Youth Team Destroys Huambo Power Station

MB200918 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] On 11 February 1984, a female team from (JURA) [UNITA Youth Wing], supported by our clandestine cells, destroyed an electrical power station in the city of Huambo. The station, which was totally destroyed, supplied the Santo Antonio suburb. Leaflets depicting Comrade President were distributed by the team. Everything is all right on our side.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Reaffirms Support for ANC, SWAPO

MB231204 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] President Samora Machel has reaffirmed Mozambique's support for the ANC of South Africa and SWAPO of Namibia. The president was speaking in Maputo yesterday at a ceremony to accept the credentials of the new ambassador of the GDR, Dr (Helmut Maeter). President Samora said that Namibia remained occupied by the South African forces, and in South Africa itself repression was growing. He said Mozambique would always support the just struggle of the peoples of these two countries, and would remain on the side of SWAPO of Namibia and the ANC of South Africa. The president praised the two liberation movements for their determination in leading the people in their struggle for democracy, equality, and the right to be citizens of their own countries.

President Samora also spoke of southern African issues when he received the credentials yesterday of the new Belguim ambassador to Mozambique, Jean-Michel Watervliet. The president said Mr Watervliet was arriving at a moment in which southern Africa stood at the crossroads between peace and war. Peace in the region, said President Samora, would mean the end of South Africa's invasion of Angolan territory, implementation by South Africa of the UN resolution for Namibian independence, and an end to direct or indirect aggression by the apartheid regime against the independent and sovereign states of the region. The president added that peace meant each state had to rigorously observe the principles and norms of international law, especially those concerning nonaggression, the inviolability of borders, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful coexistence, and the nonuse of force or the threat of force in relations between states.

The new Belgium ambassador told President Samora that Belgium would soon be supplying financial assistance for Mozambique in support of flood victims. The ambassador also said he would be signing an agreement for the supply of 2,000 tons of wheat, and told President Samora that Belgium businessmen had asked him to check on conditions for investment in Mozambique.

Machel Adviser Says ANC To Be Curbed

MB230636 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] An adviser to President Samora Machel, Mr de Braganca, says the negotiations between South Africa and Mozambique means the end of the undeclared war between the two countries. Speaking in a radio interview, he said that the ANC could no longer count on Mozambique as a base to launch its operations from.

Machel Reaffirms Peace Needed for Development

MB221612 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Field Marshal Samora Moises Machel, president of the Republic, has once again reaffirmed that peace and security are two primordial factors for the development and progress of the southern African region. The Mozambique head of state said this this morning when he separately received the credentials of four new ambassadors accredited to Mozambique. They are (Helmut Maeter), Vasile Musat, Eric Victor, and (Jean Michel) of the GDR, Romania, United Kingdom, and the Kingdom of Belgium, respectively.

The field marshal reiterated that the principles of peace, security, and development were at the center of our country's current efforts in search of ways to bring about a cooling in the climate of tension in southern Africa. President Samora Machel pointed out that apartheid and the colonization of Namibia were the two principal stumbling blocks to peace, security, and stability in the region.

Addressing in particular the new British ambassador, Samora Machel recalled the importance of the historical role of Great Britain in our region as well as the weight which that country's assistance would carry in the search for solutions which would reduce insecurity in southern Africa.

In turn, the new ambassadors were unanimous in expressing their readiness to personally contribute toward increasing cooperation with our country in various fields. The common desire to intensify these relations was also expressed during the separate meetings.

Maputo Show To Mark Solidarity With RSA 'Peoples'

MB211234 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] A solidarity concert will be held tonight in the country's capital to mark the day of friendship between the Mozambique and South African peoples. The day of friendship was established to mark the rally presided over by Mozambique revolutionary leader Samora Machel on 14 February 1981 following the barbaric attack carried out by commando forces of the South African regime against residences of South African ANC refugees in Matola. Twelve refugees and one Portuguese expert were murdered during the raid. Musicians and dance groups from various countries will take part in tonight's concert, sponsored by the Mozambique Association of Friendship and Solidarity with the Peoples.

AIM Report on Macamo Speech on Solidarity

AB230640 Dakar PANA in English 1144 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Maputo, 22 Feb (AIM/PANA) — We continue to be in solidarity with the struggle of the South African people. Their struggle is our struggle, declared Frelimo Central Committee member Augusto Macamo last night.

Mr Macamo, who is also the secretary-general of Mozambique's trade union organization, the OTM, was speaking at a political and cultural event to mark the solidarity between the Mozambique and South African peoples. The event was orginally scheduled to take place on 14 February, the third anniversary of President Samora Machel's speech denouncing the apartheid regime after the South African commando raid on Matola in which 13 members of the African National Congress were murdered. It was postponed for a week when all recreational activities in Mozambique scheduled for 14 February were suspended as a mark of respect for the late Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov, whose funeral was held on that day.

Mr Macamo attacked the hateful regime of apartheid, and dismissed the recent constitutional changes, which will lead to a tricameral parliament with representation for Indians and so-called Coloureds, as nothing but "a mask for apartheid's continuing exploitation and oppression."

Referring to South Africa's regional aggression, he said that many countries in southern Africa feel the absence of a good neighbour, but it was the South African people themselves who felt the full impact of apartheid in their very flesh and blood.

Under the flag of the ANC, declared Mr Macamo, the South African people are fighting for political, economic, and social equality, regardless of race, colour, or creed. The people of South Africa, he added, are fighting for a country of peace and good neighbourliness, without apartheid.

Mr Macamo denounced the long history of South African aggression against Mozambique — first through Pretoria's collaboration with the Portuguese colonial regime, later through its support for Ian Smith's Rhodesia, and now through the banditry of the self-styled Mozambique National Resistance. The MNR was just an extension of the South African Army, he said.

The solidarity between Mozambique and the ANC, said Mr Macamo, [words indistinct] for the common cause of peace and equality. Pledging Mozambique's continued solidarity with the South African people, he ended his speech with shouts of "Long Live the ANC, Long Live Umkhonto we Sizwe" (the ANC's armed wing).

A message from the ANC read out to the meeting said that the relationship between friends will always be of a nature which the enemies of freedom cannot understand. Theirs is a world of bullying and blackmail, in which human beings are subordinated to so-called interests: Ours is a world of comradeship and solidarity in which the success of one is the success of all.

The message pledged to unite the widest sectors of the South African people to get rid of, once and for all, the source of oppression, national humiliation, and war in our zone. In rededicating ourselves to this, we are rededicating ourselves to the same ideals as the Mozambique people, the hope that we all have for a zone of peace and fraternity.

Another cyclome is brewing in South Africa, warned the message, one which will not relent until all that is hateful is blown from our land. We are the cyclone, and we have our origins not in the Mozambique Channel, but in South Africa itself. We will blow open the doors of our country's prisons.

Only the ANC, concluded the message, could bring a real and enduring peace to our zone.

Resistance Says Talks Held With USSR on Captives

MB221300 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National Resistance in Portuguese 1700 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Station commentary: "Frelimo Continues To Lie"]

[Text] Clear evidence that Frelimo consists of nothing but a bunch of liars with no imagination has emerged. Twelve of the Soviet geologists captured by our glorious forces at the Morrua mines on 21 August 1983 were released by the Mozambique National Resistance [RENAMO] on 25 January on the border with Malawi. The Malawian authorities had been informed of this in advance. The Soviets whom we had captured were only released after having forced the Soviet Union to hold direct talks with us. Earlier, the Samora Machel government had been advised to exchange former political prisoners for the captured Russians. However, Joana Simeao, Lzaro Kavandame, Mateus Gwengere, Paulo Gumane, and many others were murdered long ago by the Machel regime's criminals, and thus Frelimo could not carry out the exchange.

To secure the release of its nationals, the Soviet Union was, therefore, forced to contact RENAMO so that the question of the Soviet geologists under detention could be discussed directly with us. After a number of talks, it was agreed that some of the Soviet geologists would be released along the border with Malawi.

RENAMO has won once again. The Russian imperialists were forced to listen to the Mozambique people and almost knelt down begging us to release the Soviets we were holding. Frelimo was left behind by the events, and then decided to react in a poor and belated manner. It resorted to a poorly fabricated propaganda campaign which made one laugh. It was only 8 days after we had released the Soviets and handed them over to the Malawian authorities that Frelimo came out with the great line, saying that its ragtag soldiers had freed the Russians. Who can believe this? Where else can such a lie have been heard before?

The 12 Soviets were released on the border with Malawi on 25 January and were then received by the Malawian authorities, who later sent them by plane to Maputo. As soon as it was certain that we had released the Russians on the Malawi border, and disclosed that direct talks had been held with the Soviet authorities, the Soviet Embassy in Mozambique hastily denied such talks.

Speaking in Parliament when he became aware of the release of the Soviets, South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha added, though foolishly [estupidamente], that RENAMO had released the Soviets after South Africa's intervention because the Pretoria government had received requests in that regard from the Soviet Union, the United States, and other countries. The release was also attributed to the talks held recently between South Africa and Mozambique.

What is important to stress, regardless of all these statements, is that the Soviets were released by RENAMO on the border with Malawi on 25 January. The entire world was informed about it and could confirm it. It was only 8 days after their release that Frelimo appeared with a lie which was easily detected and exposed. It was a lie that did not deceive anyone, either in Mozambique or the world at large. For months, and despite the thousands of troops it had deployed in Zambezia Province, Frelimo was unable to detect or free the Russians we were holding. The Russians were finally released by RENAMO, but not due to pressure or attacks by the ragtag Frelimo soldiers. Once again Machel's ill-disciplined soldiers have been defeated.

While we are winning the war on the battlefield through military means, Frelimo only portrays easy victories on paper in its propaganda campaign. This is deceitful propaganda which can no longer fool anyone. It only serves to discredit the criminals and corrupted liars of the Frelimo government throughout the world.

Eight People Murdered by 'Armed Bandits'

MB171818 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Eight people have been murdered and three wounded following an attack by armed bandits on Vigilancia Village Commune situated between Magude and Moamba, Maputo Province near the border with South Africa. (Joao Maringue), the programmer at the Social Communication Center of that village commune, was cited by AIM as having said the attack was perpetrated at approximately 0400 on 23 January 1984. He added that most of the villagers were able to flee into the bush following the first shots aimed at homes, but eight people — three men and five women — were killed.

The armed bandits fired indiscriminately into houses, setting them ablaze. At least 50 houses were burned. The armed bandits also burned empty bags meant for the forthcoming agricultural marketing campaign as well as a number of products available in the cooperative.

The bandits, who fired bazooka shells at the village's hospital, kidnapped six villagers upon leaving the area, forcing the villagers to carry bags of sugar and other stolen products. They later ordered the six people to return.

Resistance Criticizes BBC Partiality

MB171020 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National Resistance in Portuguese 1700 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Station commentary: "BBC Speaks and the World Does Not Believe"]

[Text] The British radio service BBC has in the past been regarded as the most accurate source of information in the world, and as a result, the one in greatest demand. During World War II, BBC carried the message of truth, freedom, and hope to millions of people who were subjugated by and fought against the criminal war machine of Nazi Germany. Because of its updated and unbiased reports, the BBC was regarded by all as a highly respected station. A slogan was even coined then: The BBC speaks and the world believes. That, as a matter of fact, was the true situation. The BBC informed giving the whole truth, thus destroying the lies spread by the Nazi oppressors who wanted to dominate the world. However, that was the BBC of 1940.

What is the situation of the BBC 40 years later in terms of its reporting? For example, let's analyze the manner in which BBC reports on Mozambique. We ask, what is true about what the BBC says today?

If we review BBC newscasts, we will see that the communiques released by the Mozambique National Resistance [RENAMO] abroad, and even those carrying reports on important operations, are disregarded by that station which claims to be independent most of the time. When the honorable BBC editors decide to mention any action in the struggle of the Mozambique people, they always include a good deal of Frelimo propaganda, even if it is old and of no use, thus subtly denying and contradicting what they had previously reported. Moreover, any news reported by the Maputo authorities is immediately given credit, amplification, and widespread coverage in the BBC programs. Such news is even referred to for weeks to properly indoctrinate Frelimo propaganda in the minds of those listeners who still bother to tune in to the tiresome, "Londres, Ultima Hora" [Late News from London] program.

Take, for example, the case of RENAMO and its large-scale operation, Red Summer. The BBC service in Portuguese gives little or no coverage to this operation although it receives extensive reports on the situation from the various news agencies every week. However, a lie reported by Frelimo, which spoke of 3,000 guerrillas being captured by Maputo troops, gained immense BBC coverage. The BBC, in fact, promoted this lie for weeks and continues to do so. This report is completely false and the BBC is well aware of it. However, it prefers to promote lies. In fact, the BBC consciously and shamelessly lies.

In a matter of 6 weeks, RENAMO attacked, destroyed, and captured approximately 30 Frelimo positions, barracks, and military bases. The BBC received information on all of these incidents. It was also informed that Muanza was captured by our forces and that 110 FPLM soldiers were killed during the raid. Why hasn't it reported these incidents? Why has the BBC concealed and hidden such reports? From whom has the BBC received orders to act accordingly?

When leftwing guerrillas in El Salvador or any other Latin American country attack a small barracks of those troops loyal to any ruling dictatorship, killing five or six soldiers, the BBC immediately gives the incident wide coverage. The massacres of peasants in Central America and South America by government troops are reported by the BBC. However, the massacres and slaughter of hundreds of people in Mozambique by Frelimo and Zimbabwean troops are disregarded by the BBC, which has never talked about them. When it reports such incidents, it seeks to attribute responsibility to the guerrillas. [musical pause]

Why does the BBC follow this double standard? Isn't this suspicious? The BBC propaganda peaked last October at the time of Machel's visit to Europe. The BBC, which is subsidized by the British Government, has had to cut down on its international programs due to budget limitations. However, this did not prevent it from carrying a number of special programs during Machel's visit. Who paid for the entire propaganda campaign? What was the objective? Who did these programs benefit? Was this information or merely dirty propaganda?

Apart from the newscasts, the commentaries and reports carried by the British station are clear proof of the partiality which today characterizes the station which in years past was justly regarded as the voice of truth.

The BBC correspondent in Maputo, Joseph Hanlon, who is linked to extreme leftwing British organizations, works in Mozambique in complete coordination with AIM, while maintaining close ties with Frelimo's National Service of Public Security and FPLM's intelligence service. Hanlon is the main culprit in this campaign of lies, calumnies, and false propaganda with which the BBC, in its daily service to Frelimo, punishes its listeners.

Several months ago, the propaganda of Mr Joseph Hanlon and Mr Antonio Menezes loudly promoted false information from Maputo, alleging that guerrilla bases had been taken or that government troops were advancing. Nothing of the kind has occurred and the BBC knows that too well, just as it knows the countless Frelimo bases and barracks which have either been destroyed or captured, and the hundreds of FPLM soldiers who have been killed. Furthermore, on 24 January, the BBC also lied in a shameless manner, saying that RENAMO's activities were decreasing following a successful military campaign conducted by the Mozambique Armed Forces. This is the truth as told by the BBC. Can we believe it?

Now, with the FPLM completely defeated and deserting from their posts, the BBC doesn't dare attribute any operation to the Maputo army. The tactic of propaganda has thus begun to change. The BBC talks extensively about old operations and victories carried out by the ill-disciplined Maputo army. However, all of this is false, as Maputo and Machel have only collected defeats throughout all these years. In other words, it is only falsehood and lies. According to the BBC, RENAMO is nothing more than a movement approaching extinction, which, although still carrying out operations, limits itself to engaging in massacres. This is the so-called BBC's reporting and impartiality.

In view of this propaganda of lies, we can no longer continue to treat the BBC in the same manner. What the BBC broadcasts and disseminates daily which is more than a lack of information, false propaganda, and lies orchestrated from Maputo is an insult to the Mozambique people and an outrage to the intelligence of its listeners. What BBC's programs say today is nothing more than an assault on the minds of the less enlightened by genuine information bandits, headed by Joseph Hanlon, who is hiding in Maputo. What the BBC says today is no longer the truth. It is merely a packet of distorted news, devoid of realistic content, skillfully fabricated in the AIM offices. One can find corrupt people anywhere. Like most of them, the so-called BBC journalists have let themselves be bribed and prostituted by the Frelimo criminals. Today they are nothing but pen and microphone bandits who command no trust or respect.

Can we believe all that the BBC tells us about what is happening in the world, in Afghanistan, the Middle East, with the tactical missiles, the EEC, Kampuchea? No. Mistrust soars. Good Lord, what a difference from the BBC of 1940. What is there to say about all the lies spread by the Late News From London? What is there to say about the BBC? Only this: The BBC is no longer an information organ. It is merely an instrument of a propaganda based on and filled with lies and falsehood. Today's BBC, contrary to the situation of 40 years ago, sides with dictatorship, repression, and criminals. Today the BBC talks but the world no longer believes.

NAMIBIA

U.S. Technical Personnel Arrive in Windhoek

MB221839 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] An advance group of technical personnel from the United States has arrived in Windhoek in preparation for the opening of an American office to help monitor the disengagement of South African forces in southern Angola. A spokesman for the Office of the Adminstrator General has confirmed the arrival of the Americans. Earlier, a spokesman for the American Embassy in Cape Town said the office would open within a few weeks. It will be staffed by about four officials who would form part of the joint

Angolan-South African Commission, which is to monitor the withdrawal of forces from southern Angola.

The commission was formed during last week's discussions in Lusaka between South Africa, Angola, and the United States. The commission, which held its first meeting in Lusaka, will meet again in southern Angola next week.

At a news conference in Luanda, the Angolan minister of internal affairs, Colonel Rodrigues, declined to reveal the composition of the commission except to say that two or three Americans would be included if both South Africa and Angola requested this. Col Rodrigues said Angola regarded the American presence as indispensable, and the official news agency, ANGOP, repeated a report that Angola had already agreed that America could monitor what it termed the possible truce between South Africa and Angola.

Col Rodrigues said his government had brought pressure to bear on SWAPO not to abuse the South African disengagement. He said that only Angolan Government forces would be moved into the areas vacated by the South Africans. He said the Angolan Government would restrict SWAPO from abusing the situation.

Col Rodrigues, who was the leader of the Angolan delegation to the talks in Lusaka, told newsmen hostilities in southern Angola were over, and that some troops had already been withdrawn from the territory.

Railroad Siding in North Damaged by Explosion

MB221317 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] A railway siding has been damaged in an explosion in northern Namibia. A spokesman for the South African Transport Services in Pretoria says the siding is between Otavi and Otjiwarongo. He says the siding was slightly damaged, but no one was injured. Railway police in Windhoek are investigating the incident.

SOUTH AFRICA

Official Denies Raid on Transkei Offices

MB221307 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The East Rand Administration Board [ERAB] has denied police raided the Transkei Government offices in Tembisa earlier this month. ERAB chief director (C. Marks) also denied police used arrogant and abusive language. (Marks) has, instead, claimed that Transkei officials used abusive language when speaking to Tembisa municipal police officers who were serving summonses on three women who were allegedly trading illegally inside the grounds of the building. (Marks) was reacting to allegations by the Transkei Embassy in Pretoria that police officers had raided the premises and had made derogatory insinuations about Transkei President Kaiser Matanzima.

Trial of 11 for Bombings Opens in Grahamstown

MB221556 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1414 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Grahamstown, Feb 22, (SAPA) — A treason trial involving 11 accused, and charges of five bombings, a murder, the injury of seven people, and damage amounting to more than rand 191,000, opened in the Grahamstown Supreme Court today. All accused pleaded guilty.

The accused are Mr Rufus Nato Nzo, 24; Mr Douglas Mnyisile Tyuthy, 48; Mr Sipho Fielden Hima, 44; Mr James Nqgondela, 54; Mr Mzayifani William Khame, 57; Mr Mzimkulu Temi Kameh, 22; Mr Sipho Nondlewu, 35; Mr Vukile Tshiwula, 43; Mr Linkile Patrick Mbelekana, 27; Mr Wellington Vukile Gumenge, 29; and Mr Ncepa Christopher Faku, 27.

The main charge involves conspiring with each other and other parties to further the aims of the alliance between the banned South African Communist Party and the African National Congress. Other charges are the joint or individual committing or attempting to commit certain acts including:

— The unlawful importation of arms into South Africa;

— The unlawful introduction of banned Marxist, communist, or ANC literature;

— The unlawful importation and utilisation of funds amounting to rand 4500 from Lesotho;

— The recruitment and training for the sabotage and subversion of people for the ANC;

— The formation of ANC cells and recruitment of people for the cells;

— The accommodation of such people;

— The organization of arms and explosives caches;

— Liaison and communication with ANC hierarchy in Lesotho;

— The commission of various acts.

These acts included the preparing, placing, and triggering of an explosive device at the Constantia Centre, Port Elizabeth, on August 8, 1981, and again on May 29, 1982; at the new law courts, Port Elizabeth, on July 28, 1982; at the offices of the East Cape Administration Board, New Brighton, on January 26, 1983; and on the railway line between Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage on April 6, 1983.

A black man, Mr Petros Bokala, allegedly died as a result of the railway bomb.

The murder charge covers the killing of Mrs Nkosi Tshiwula, who died from injuries inflicted by machine gun fire and a handgrenade explosion at Kwazakele on May 8.

The alternative counts arise out of the substance of the main charge. They include sabotage resulting in damage worth about rand 191,000. Seven people were injured as a result of the alleged acts of sabotage.

After the charges had been put to the accused, and they had pleaded guilty, the defence submitted written statements of admission made by the accused and declined to give further details of defence. It also made application for the court to order the state to hand over certain statements made by some of the accused while in detention in terms of the Internal Security Act.

Commentary Hails 'Momentum for Peace'

MB221627 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Station Commentary: "A Momentum for Peace"]

[Text] Today in the southern African region, a momentum for peace and stability has been created through cooperation and dialogue which hold the possibility for development and progress which was unthinkable only a few short months ago. The record reads like a peacemaker's textbook, and credit must go to all the countries of southern Africa.

What is happening is that they are opting for realistic policies based on the essential interdependence of the region instead of the political rhetoric that through the years has heightened tensions, increased instability, and promoted confrontation. In a nutshell, this is the picture. South Africa and Angola and South Africa and Mozambique are involved in frequent face-to-face negotiations on ending the war in Angola and on normalizing relations.

President Kaunda of Zambia is playing an important role in bringing South Africa and Angola together. Tanzania has described the South African-Mozambique talks as hopeful. The Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC], consisting of nine nations in southern Africa, has done nothing to upset these developments, and in fact, by not inviting the ANC and SWAPO, which the ANC condemned as conciliatory, SADCC promoted the cause of dialogue and peaceful progress.

At the same time, the major Western powers, and particularly the United States, are not only actively trying to bring about reconciliation in southern Africa, but are thrilled over what has been achieved so far. The Americans have expressed pleasure and optimism, while the British have hailed the peace pact between South Africa and Mozambique as a major diplomatic breakthrough. The British Foreign Office issued a statement declaring: We have long believed that only through negotiations can enduring solutions to the problems of southern Africa be achieved. Then there was the Portuguese foreign minister, Mr Jaime Gama, who said that the normalization of relations between Mozambique and Pretoria was a great step towards world peace.

What is happening in southern Africa today is that the states of the subcontinent have taken a good hard look at their security and economic realities. The point to stress is that with the Frontline States and South Africa cooperating for the common good, any action against one becomes an action against all, and all will resist with the considerable force and influence they have at their disposal.

The subcontinent of southern Africa could be heading into an era of properity and goodwill unprecendented in its history. The momentum has been created, and all signs are that it is being maintained.

Radio On Opposing Reagan-Mondale Philosophies

MB230815 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] At the beginning of the last stretch of the campaign for the American presidency, signs are growing that elections in November will be one of the most clear-cut for years. The voters of the United States will be faced with a choice between the philosophies of the conservative section of the Republican Party, represented by President Ronald Reagan, and the ideologically orientated liberal wing of the Democratic Party, probably represented by former Vice President Walter Mondale. On Monday the Iowa State caucuses of the Democratic Party voted overwhelmingly in favor of Mr Mondale's candidacy. The victory gave more weight to poll projections in which Mr Mondale has led the field of aspirant candidates — who now number eight — from the time he entered the race a year ago. Even if disaster should strike his campaign, however, almost all the other hopefuls ready to take over the lead are sailing under much the same colors.

So the alternatives are fairly clear, even at this early stage. President Reagan, unopposed as the Republican candidate, has revolutionized governmental attitudes in his first term of office. In economic affairs, he has cut taxes and relaxed a host of controls, to spur productivity and strengthen free enterprise. Social services, subsidies for large families and housing, food stamps, medical aid, medicare, and the legal services program have been cut.

In foreign affairs, he has initiated a vast military program to strengthen American and Western defenses, in terms of a commitment to oppose Soviet aggression worldwide. The commitment has led to deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe, a peace keeping force in Lebanon, the invasion of Grenada, aid to Central American allies, and constructive engagement in southern Africa, with the removal of Cuban forces in Angola as a major component.

In the other corner, Mr Mondale stands for big government internally, and fewer commitments internationally. He would enlarge the social programs, he says, and pay for it by cutting the defense budget and raising taxes. He would resubmit the abortive SALT-2 treaty to the Senate. He would also support sanctions against South Africa. Mr Mondale's stand in foreign affairs is well-known from his record as vice president, to which he often refers. The Carter-Mondale era experienced the entrenchment of Soviet proxies in Angola and Ethiopia, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Iranian seizure of American hostages, and the takeover by Cuban-backed Marxists of Nicaragua.

It was the influence of Mr Mondale in Congress, says Republican Congressman Newt Gingrich, a former history professor, that secured the passage of the Clark Amendment, which gave a free hand to 25,000 Cubans in Angola and emboldened the Soviet Union to invade Afghanistan.

When Americans voted overwhelmingly for Mr Reagan in 1980, they were rejecting practically everything Mr Mondale stands for. What remains to be seen is whether, after 4 years, they find the reality of Mr Reagan's policies as attractive as they did the prospect.

SWAZILAND

Talks Held With Mozambique on Railway Line

MB231010 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 23 Feb 84 p 16

[Text] High-level talks between Mozambique and Swaziland have been held in Mbabane this week on the reconstruction of the rail line between the two countries. When the two sides met, Mozambique indicated their side of the line would be open up to the border by April 1.

The meeting was attended by Mozambique port and rail officials.

The Swazi delegation included officials from Swaziland Railways, the Swaziland Sugar Association, exporters, and importers.

The talks were chaired by the general manager of the Swaziland Sugar Association, Mr Derek Johnson.

The chief executive officer of Swaziland Railways, Mr Danny Slabbert, declined to say when the rail lines to Lavumisa and Goba would be opened.

Swaziland Railway is understood to be receiving tenders for the reconstruction of the damaged rail lines.

Mr Slabbert confined himself to saying the reconstruction work would cost the railways millions of emalangeni. He would not be drawn into further details.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Says RSA May Be Welcomed to OAU

MB221409 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] President Kaunda of Zambia has said that independent African states are looking forward to welcoming South Africa to the OAU, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, and the Preferential Trade Agreement once South Africa has proved that it is genuine, as he put it, by removing troops from Angola and by granting independence to South-West Africa. The government-owned *ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL* reported that President Kaunda made this statement when he received credentials from ambassadors from Greece, Sweden, and Denmark in Lusaka yesterday. He also said that South Africa was an African country and would be welcome to join those organizations. He added that the talks in Lusaka between South Africa, Angola, and the United States, as well as the series of talks between South Africa and Mozambique in Maputo, should prove South Africa's sincerity.

ZIMBABWE

Johannesburg Reports Mugabe Welcomes 'Dialogue'

MB221940 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe, has welcomed the current dialogue between South Africa and its black neighbors saying that the success of the negotiations will depend on South Africa's willingness to honor its pledges. Speaking in Parliament in Harare, Mr Mugabe said he had been assured by Mozambique and Angola that their talks with South Africa were aimed at achieving peace in southern Africa from which Zimbabwe could also benefit. Mr Mugabe said that his government was continously being informed on the negotiations, and that there was no cause for concern. He expressed the hope that the talks would lead to peace on the subcontinent.

The Zimbabwean leader said that his country could benefit tremendously if South Africa and Mozambique reached an agreement. He said that the rebel group which was fighting against the Mozambique forces would then stop attacking Zimbabwe's rail and oil lines passing through Mozambique to the Indian Ocean. Mr Mugabe dismissed a suggestion that the current dialogue would undermine efforts by the nine-nation Southern African Development Coordination Conference to lessen the dependence of black countries on South Africa. He said the talks could even lead to a situation of increased cooperation within the organization.

Mugabe Says RSA Sincerity Key to Maputo Talks

MB230655 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has expressed the hope that negotiations between the Governments of Angola and Mozambique with South Africa will bring peace and calm to southern Africa. Speaking in the House of Assembly yesterday during the prime minister's question and answer session, Comrade Mugabe said the success of the talks depends on the sincerity of the Pretoria regime. The prime minister said Zimbabwe has no cause for concern over the talks. Comrade Mugabe said the Mozambique Government has assured Zimbabwe that the series of talks have come about because there has been an initiative in the first place by South Africa to hold them, and that it is in the interest of Mozambique to have peace and calm in the region.

Mugabe Says Ties With USSR To Be Strengthened

MB221718 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] ZANU-PF and the Government of Zimbabwe have expressed the desire to strengthen and consolidate the ties between Harare and Moscow at various levels. This desire is contained in a message sent by the prime minister and president of ZANU-PF, Comrade Robert Mugabe, to Comrade Konstantin Chernenko on his election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party.

Describing the ties between the two countries as satisfactory, Comrade Mugabe expressed hope that the years to come will witness the initiation of cooperation between the two progressive parties. The message stresses that the two parties and governments share the fundamental values of socialism and the spirit of (?comradely) mutual assistance, and one of the convictions [as heard] that the nuclear arms race can be stopped. Both sides also believe in the principles of peaceful coexistence and detente.

Comrade Mugabe reiterated his gratitude for the unstinting support and assistance rendered to the liberation movements in southern Africa by the CPSU and the Soviet State. He said this support gives comfort in the face of acts of aggression by the racist Pretoria administration.

Mugabe Receives Birthday Message From USSR

MB221331 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The Soviet Union has sent a congratulatory message to the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, on his 60th birthday, which was yesterday. The message handed to Comrade Mugabe by the Soviet ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Georgiy Ter-Gazaryants, describes the prime minister as a distinguished leader of the African liberation movement.

Cuban Deputy Minister Leaves For Tanzania

MB221742 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The Cuban deputy foreign minister, Comrade Oscar Oramas, left Harare for Tanzania today after a 4-day visit. During his visit, Comrade Oramas held talks with the minister of foreign affaris, Comrade Witness Mangwende, on bilateral relations between the two countries, and he signed a cultural agreement between Zimbabwe and Cuba. The Cuban official has been to Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, Zambia, and Botswana.

Spanish Delegation Urges Closer Cooperation

MB230740 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The visiting Spanish parliamentary delegation has expressed the need for closer cooperation between Zimbabwe and Spain. At a reception for the delegation last night, the vice president of the Spanish Senate, Mr Arturo Lizon, told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Service that the delegation is seeking ways of improving relations with Zimbabwe. Mr Lizon said Zimbabwean parliamentarians are expected to visit Spain later this year at the invitation of that country's president of the Congress.

Early yesterday the delegation attended the prime minister's question and answer session in Parliament.

Mugabe Asks Nkomo Not To Support Dissidents

MB221853 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has called on the ZAPU leader, Dr Joshua Nkomo, to persuade his followers not to support dissidents. He said the ZAPU leader should take this step because the dissidents operate under the banner of his party. Speaking in the House of Assembly during the prime minister's question and answer session today, Comrade Mugabe also called on the dissidents to stop their lawless activities. The prime minister pointed out that ZAPU leaders have not conducted their realistic campaign against the dissidents, leaving some people to conclude that the party cannot dissociate itself from them.

Mugabe To Run on Single-Party Issue

MB221713 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says ZANU-PF does not view the multiparty system inherited by Zimbabwe as conducive to maximum democracy and unity. Responding to questions raised by members of the House of Assembly during the prime minister's question time this afternoon, Comrade Mugabe disclosed that ZANU-PF will fight the next election on a platform which will include the one-party-state proposition. Comrade Mugabe said if the party won the next election, it will not allow the will of the people to be foiled by the rigidity of the Constitution. Ways and means will be sought to ensure that the will of the people is given full expression by creating a political order based on a one-party system.

Radio Truth Cites Army Action in Mozambique

MB190828 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English 0430 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] We see that the Mozambique Resistance Movement [MNR] has killed about seven Zimbabwean soldiers in a battle near Beira and captured about a dozen or so. What a telling blow to the Zimbabwean Army, and what a shock to an Army already low on moral discipline. Our leaders are fond of telling us that the MNR is nothing more than a gang of bandits and rogues, yet these same bandits and rogues have routed a national army force.

We also understand that these same bandits blew up for the umpteenth time the oil pipeline from Beira. With one-half of our

Army battling bandits and rogues in Mozambique, and the other half (?fighting) their way through Matabeleland, casualties are mounting. But, if you want an indication of where the real fear lies, just think this over. The oil pipeline aside, the most effective fighting units in Mugabe's personal praetorian guard appear to do all their fighting inside Zimbabwe. The National Army is left to suffer the blow in Mozambique until it draws whatever punishment the MNR might hand out. Mugabe and his gang are terrified of a coup or an assassination attempt, or both, and they do not want their bodyguards to be too far away. The fabulous 5th can be withdrawn from Matabeleland within hours, but it would take days to get them back from Gaza Province, and if you do not believe Mugabe and company are afraid, just count the bodyguards they still surround themselves with and judge for yourself.